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Inter-Arab Affairs

Committee Formed To Mediate Arab Reconciliation

NC2204195493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] At the conclusion of their closed session yesterday, the Arab foreign ministers decided to refer to Arab leaders the Arab League secretary general's initiative on bringing about Arab reconciliation. The Arab League Council resumes its session this morning at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

The Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute dominated the meeting of Arab foreign ministers and heads of delegations yesterday. The Arab reconciliation initiative proposed by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to the Arab kings and leaders collided with a Kuwaiti rejection. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said there will be no reconciliation with the Iraqi regime and the countries that supported it, specifically Palestine, Jordan, and Yemen. Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Sahhaf met Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and criticized the Arab League, accusing it of being biased toward Kuwait. He also declared his country's readiness for reconciliation.

A three-member ministerial committee comprising Egypt, Morocco, and Mauritania was formed to mediate in the reconciliation.

Morocco's Filali Comments on Arab League Meeting

LD2204152993 Rabat MAP in English 1252 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, Apr. 22 (MAP)—Talks of the 99th session of the Arab League Ministerial Council were "positive and constructive", Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali told MAP bureau here.

In a statement he made before leaving Cairo where he chaired the Arab League meeting, Filali said on top of the agenda of the session to which over 15 Arab foreign ministers took part there was the present situation in the Arab world. He hoped it will contribute to promoting consultations and contacts to unify Arab ranks.

Concerning news reports that the Arab League secretary general is undertaking an initiative for an Arab reconciliation, Filali said he does not know about such an initiative and added the secretary general did not mention it in his letter to Arab heads of state on the occasion of 48th anniversary of the panArab organisation.

Answering a question on whether the climate in the Arab world is presently appropriate for a reconciliation, the head of the Moroccan diplomacy deplored that there are still unhealed wounds and explained that Morocco is deeply convinced that all obstacles will be overcome and inter-Arab disputes will be settled.

* Pakistan Allegedly Sends Arabs' Files to Egypt

93P50147Z London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar and Jamal Isma'il in Islamabad]

[Text] Security sources in Peshawar affirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that 63 Arabs were arrested on the charge of transferring residence illegally to Pakistani territory, while other informed sources said that Interior Minisster Chaudhary Shujat Hussain will go to Cairo today to present the Egyptian Government with files containing their photographs and names in order that it may distribute them to the concerned Arab capitals.

Unofficial reports stated that the number of Arabs who were arrested for interrogation in the matter of their residence was 260, but the security organs refused to give accurate numbers in this matter before the end of a meeting being held by the various security offices (intelligence, police, and immigration) to study the next measures which must be taken. It was said that those in the meeting will be making important decisions.

Egyptian prisoners in the Hayatabad Prison and university city said to relief officials visiting them that the Pakistani investigators told them that they would deliver them to their countries' governments in spite of the fact that Pakistani authorities had ruled this out on the basis of there being no agreement between Pakistan and Egypt or between it and other countries to exchange suspects or prisoners or accused persons.

Informed sources put the Interior Ministry measure to deliver the prisoners' photos and nammes to Egypt in the realm of security coordination between the two countries, especially after an agreement between President Husni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Bonn last week on exchanging information and cooperation in fighting terorism and extremism.

Pakistani political sources expected that the arrest campaign would stop tomorrow (Saturday), while the leader of the Pakistani Jama'at-e Eslami, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, called for a demonstration today in Peshawar protesting the arrests.

The leader of the Afghan Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], 'Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf, issued a communique calling for Islamiabad to treat the Arabs better and permit them to choose their destination if it wants to expel them from the country. A delegation representing the Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, is arriving in the Pakistani capital today to conduct talks with officials in this matter. it is known that most of the Arabs traveled to Pakistan to participate in the Jihad against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Members of the Islamic coordination council which represents the 16 Arab relief organizations working in Pakistan held a meeting yesterday to study methods of handling the crisis. Wives of the prisoners issued a call in

the name of "Arab women" to set their husbands free. A delegation from the Islamic coordination council under the leadership of Zahid al-Shaykh met the secretary of the Pakistani interior Ministry, Gulzar Khan, and urged him to stop the arrests.

Officials from the Arab relief organizations in Peshawar held a press conference yesterday evening in which they charged that the police were treating the Arabs "harshly and in an unbrotherly way." They explained that the police had raided Arab schools and arrested some of the students. They called upon the sons of the Arab colony to strike and announced the closure of their offices on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday in protest. They pointed out that the Arab organizations had given a total of $215 million in aid to the immigrants in Peshawar.

In addition, the Afghan arena witnessed an important development when President Rabbani met Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], in Pol-i Sharkhi east of Kabul in a five-hour meeting and discussed the formation of the new government. No progress was achieved in the matter of the Defense Ministry, which the president insists on entrusting to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who currently heads it.

* Arab Governments Concerned About Arrests

93WR0204Y London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article from Peshawar, Islamabad, and Tunisia: "Hekmatyar Ready To Welcome Deportees Amidst Concerns That Some Will Go to Sudan"]

[Excerpts] The number of Arab detainees in Pakistan to be deported has risen to 98, while the arrest campaigns and raids on houses and camps has continued in Peshawar. Afghan Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar said that his country is willing to welcome those detainees, but high-level Pakistani sources affirmed that the American Government has officially told Islamabad not to allow the deportees to travel to Afghanistan to evade prosecution. Some official sources in Arab Maghreb countries were concerned that their deported citizens would go to Sudan. [passage omitted]

The Arab Maghreb countries followed with concern the arrest campaigns that targeted the Arab Afghans in Peshawar, especially because a large percentage of those arrested are from Algeria and Tunisia. These governments were satisfied with Islamabad's intention to hand over the file on the detainees to the embassies of their countries of origin. Meanwhile a number of Arab diplomats have recently arrived in Peshawar to follow closely the development of events. Sources in Tunisia and Algeria expressed their governments' concern that their citizens in Peshawar would go to Sudan because of the Pakistani Government's decision to allow the deportees to choose their destination as long as it is not Afghanistan.

Well-informed sources in Algeria indicated that the Algerian Government asked Pakistan to deport the Algerian Afghans who have no reason to stay in Peshawar and also informed the Pakistani Government of the role of the Afghan faction of the Islamic Salvation Front in committing armed attacks on official barracks and institutions and also of the role of the faction known as al-Tayyib al-Afghani in this respect.

Other sources in Tunisia indicated that the security coordination between Tunis and Islamabad has continued since the visit of [Prime Minister] Nawaz Sharif to the Tunisian capital last year, which led to an agreement to enhance cooperation in confronting the fundamentalist religious organizations.

Peshawar

In Peshawar, sources at Arab relief organizations indicated that the organizations will hire attorneys to defend the detainees and that committees have been formed to follow the problems of those who are scheduled to be deported. Sources at these organizations indicated that they will work against the extradition of these people, especially because Pakistan has no extradition agreements with any country except the United States.

AL-HAYAH learned that a number of tribal leaders are discussing filing a suit with the Supreme Court in Peshawar to stop the deportation process. The suit would be based on an article in the Pakistani Constitution that indicates that every Muslim has the right to live in Pakistan. A number of Arabs who have been wrongly detained and who are holding legal documents will complain about the government to the Supreme Court, protesting the acts of oppression against them. The campaigns led to the arrest of 223 Arabs, 125 of whom were released. The rest are awaiting deportation decisions.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Confirms Ministers Will Meet in Pakistan 25-29 Apr

LD2004191493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1640 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] confirmed that a meeting of foreign ministers from Islamic states will be held as planned this month in Karachi between 25 and 29 April. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reaction to Joining Peace Negotiations

PFLP Condemns PLO Agreement

JN2204121593 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] An official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has condemned the

PLO official leadership's agreement to attend the next round of negotiations on 27 April. The spokesman added that the U.S. position as announced by the U.S. secretary of state neither contains anything new nor responds to the conditions set by the Palestinian delegation, particularly those on deportation and the deportees. The PFLP spokesman cast doubts on the Zionist position on the Palestinian delegation's conditions, especially under the Zionist campaign of repression against the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories, the continuation of its [Israel's] siege of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem, and its disavowal of the Palestinian people's rights and the resolutions of international legitimacy. The spokesman called on the PLO leadership to retract its position and urged the delegation members to abstain from attending the next round of talks.

DFLP: Decision Made by 'Minority'

JN2204120993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1046 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] An official spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has stated the following: The decision made by some Palestinian leaders to participate in the ninth round of bilateral talks in Washington is a decision made by a minority. This decision does not enjoy any legitimate or popular Palestinian cover. Neither the PLO Executive Committee nor the overwhelming majority of the Palestinian factions, forces, currents, and personalities in the occupied territories and abroad, including some of the factions, currents, and personalities that supported or participated in the previous rounds of talks, agreed to continue this negotiating process. The overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and in the refugee camps also did not agree to the continuation of this process, which is taking place away from the international legitimacy resolutions or UN supervision with the aim of preventing our Palestinian people from exercising their right to self-determination on the soil of their homeland, curtailing their rights within the framework of administrative self-government, and squandering the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation in accordance with UN Resolution 194.

The American pressures do not justify the continuation of such a process at a time when it was possible to reunite the Palestinian ranks in order to demand a comprehensive Palestinian representation in the negotiations through the PLO and draw up new principles and mechanisms for negotiation on the basis of the UN resolutions and not the letter of invitation to the 1991 Madrid conference—an invitation which accommodated all the conditions set by Yitzhaq Shamir's extremist right-wing government. The Palestinians are now entitled to say that what will take place in Washington neither commits them nor expresses their will.

Occupied Territories Figures Comment

JN2204123093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Interview with Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Furayh Abu-Middyan, and Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash: The Palestinian delegation has decided to participate in the bilateral talks despite all the obstacles. Do you think this was the right decision, and do you think the Palestinians had any other choice?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I think the decision, which will help resume the negotiations, reflects a very responsible position and great courage on the part of the Palestinian side. I hope the other side, the Israelis, will return the deportees and lift the security siege to pave the way for the resumption of talks in a good atmosphere and reach practical, tangible results on the ground.

I do not think that the Palestinian decisionmaking process would respond to pressures which could make it deviate from the correct nationalistic course. I believe there are pressures. But, I do not think that the reason behind the Palestinian decision was the Arab or international pressures. Rather, it is in the interest of the Palestinians to resume the negotiations because, so it seems now, they are the only way to get real results on the ground.

[Mu'addi] How do you view the threats made by the fronts opposing the peace process against the Palestinian negotiating team?

[Abu-'Ayyash] I think these threats are no more than an attempt to prevent the Palestinians from going to the negotiations. They demonstrate that there are various viewpoints. The Palestinian people have different viewpoints and every individual has the right to express his own viewpoint within a democratic dialogue.

[Mu'addi] Attorney Furayh Abu-Middyan, member of the Palestinian delegation: The decision by the Palestinians to attend the bilateral talks has angered the rejectionist front, and, particularly, the deportees. Did this decision come at the right time?

[Abu-Middyan] Basically, this is an Arab, not a Palestinian decision. The Palestinians were forced to accept the Arab decision because the Arab cordon states have been coordinating their positions for exactly a year now; and this coordination must be maintained on all levels. The Arab decision was therefore, unfair to the Palestinians, and pressured the Palestinians. The Palestinians did not make this decision freely. We in the Arab world are under enormous pressure. The Arab pressures on the Palestinian delegation were intolerable. There are pressures on the Palestinian people in the Arab world, from Baghdad in the East to Marrakech in the West. This fact must not be ignored by our brothers in the rejectionist

front. They are aware of the burden and they will suffer in the future as much as we suffer here both inside and outside.

Therefore, this is not the time to exercise oneupmanship or talk too much about this issue. The deportees are a central issue and the peace process in itself will help return the deportees. Those who have any alternative are welcome to show us. The arena is open and they can take whatever course of action they feel is appropriate and we will follow them. But until that moment, legitimacy must be respected and side battles should not be allowed. We must pay attention only to the crucial issue.

[Mu'addh] Nasir-al-Din al-Nashashibi, the Palestinian public are divided over the peace process and threats were made by the rejectionist front against Palestinian delegation members. What do you think is the solution?

[Al-Nashashibi] I do not know what is the solution. I have always advocated free and independent Palestinian decisionmaking, free from any Egyptian temptations, U.S. promises, Syrian threats, or Arab pressure. I have always advocated clarity and frankness in every political step we make that concerns the fate of the people and land, without making any maneuvers or playing games. I have always advocated respect for the public's political viewpoint and taking into account that viewpoint in every political step we make. I have always believed that politics is the art of bargaining and that I should only give as much as I take and not live on rosy dreams. I have always viewed every political decision on the basis of these simple principles and principled ideas. This is particularly the case with the recent decision to go to Washington to resume the peace talks.

Delegates Explain Boycott Decision

TA2204134693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 93 p A2

[Report by Yossi Torpstein]

[Text] Two members of the Palestinian peace delegation representing the Palestinian People's Party (the former Palestinian Communist Party), Ghassan al-Khatib and Samir 'Abdallah, will not attend the opening of the talks in Washington on 27 April.

Al-Khatib, who participated in the consultations with the PLO leadership, made known his decision immediately after Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' announced the agreement by all the Arab delegations to renew the negotiations. Activists in the Palestinian People's Party in the territories made it clear that in their view the Palestinian demands have not been met and there are insufficient assurances that real progress will be made in the talks.

But, they added that the position of the party continues to be to wait until negotiations start in order to test the chance for making serious progress in the negotiations based on the proposals Israel presents, especially in relation to UN Resolution 242 as the source of authority for the entire negotiating process, including interim arrangements. If party activists find that substantial progress can be expected, their representatives will return to the negotiating table.

One of them, Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, a member of the delegation, told HA'ARETZ yesterday that "in our view, not only have the constantly discussed obstacles not been removed, but Israel recently added new ones by imposing the closure, in addition to the other steps it has taken in the territories." He said the Palestinian side agreed to renew the negotiations only because it caved in to multiple pressures and wanted to maintain a united Arab front, but in the view of the Palestinian People's Party, is was a wrong decision.

'Abdallah explained that Israel's refusal to commit itself to having the principles of Resolutions 242 and 338 included in the negotiations for interim arrangements—in other words, the principle of the territorial and legal unity of the territories—shows that its intentions and positions on the negotiations are not serious and that there is little chance of progress. Moreover, he claimed, the agreements reached on other disputed issues do not square with the Palestinian position. For example, Israel has not committed itself clearly to desist from deportations in the future.

He said that from the Palestinian viewpoint, that is the main point in the "package deal" discussed to get the negotiations restarted, and had Israel agreed to it the other difficulties could have been overcome much faster. But, the Israeli stand created a situation whereby Palestinian public opinion was more influenced by Israel's moves in the territories, such as the imposition of the closure and its accompanying moves, and became convinced that Israel is not serious.

PLO Betting on 'Same Losing Horse'

TA2204135893 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "First of All the Policy of Blackmail Must Be Abandoned"]

[Text] Various Palestinian circles agree that one of the main lessons learned from previous rounds of negotiations is the futility of relying on U.S. promises and making prior concessions in expectation of achieving those promises, especially concerning the application of pressure on Israel.

Now that the Palestinian leadership, under the pressure of relatives, has announced its conditional agreement to participate in the ninth round of negotiations, it is again betting on the same losing horse, particularly if as usual the pledges are ignored.

The reported assurances and pledges, which for some reason the U.S. Administration is not announcing and which Israel has stressed that it will not even consider,

will result at most in winning over the Palestinian side and forcing it into an unexplored tunnel. This holds immense perils that could undermine the Palestinian negotiating stance and set a precedent in dealing with other UN resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem, just as has been the case with Resolution 799.

Perhaps Israel's continued siege of our masses in the occupied territories, its announcement of further measures as well as of security and other plans, and its disregard of the most elementary Palestinian rights provide a practical answer as to how sincere U.S. promises and pledges are.

This underscores the fact that those indulging in these practices, not the victims, are foremost of all required to give up their practices and present proof, if they have any, of their goodwill. They should also abandon the policy of pressure and blackmail against the party whom they believe is the weaker.

Delegates Feel 'Coerced' Into Talks

TA2204143093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Personal protection was accorded to the Palestinian delegates to the peace talks, who returned from Amman this afternoon. A personal bodyguard was attached to each delegate as soon as they crossed the Jordan bridges. A PLO leaflet disseminated in the territories over the past 24 hours warned hotheads against harming members of the peace delegation.

Addressing a welcoming party, the returning delegates conveyed an implicit sense of anger and opposition to the decision to return to the negotiating table. They asserted that they had been coerced into the move by leaders of Arab countries, by the Americans, and by PLO-Tunis.

'Arafat Warns of Terrorist Threat

PM2204145093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Salamah Ni'mat report: " 'Arafat Warns of Liquidation of PLO Officials and Negotiators"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Authoritative Palestinian sources yesterday emphasized that President Yasir 'Arafat has once again warned of the increasing threat of terrorist operations being carried out against PLO officials and the Palestinian figures participating in the peace process.

They said that 'Arafat recently sent messages to a number of PLO officials, including Ambassador al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim in Amman and members of the negotiating delegation, warning them of the threat of their being exposed to possible assassination attempts. But he did not specify the quarters which could be behind these operations.

The Palestinian leader's warning came after the escalation in tension between Fatah and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the personal threats which Palestinian negotiators have received, and the mutual liquidations between Fatah and Fatah-Revolutionary Council led by Abu-Nidal. [passage omitted]

'Abbas: Nobody 'Dare' Harm Negotiators

JN2304115693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Manama, 23 Apr (INA)—Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's assertions concerning the American stand on the peace talks meet the Palestinian demands from the U.S. Administration. He described Christopher's assertions as practical, positive, and earnest, adding that Palestinians are still waiting for an official Israeli announcement containing assertions that they will not resort to future deportations. The Israeli announcement, he added, should also include the return of the deportees and the lifting of the blockade imposed on the occupied territory.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM published today, Abu-Mazin said: Christopher announced what was demanded from the U.S. Administration. However, what was announced by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir [as received] should be included in an official statement, particularly since Rabin noted—in his comment on the Arab decision to resume the talks—that he will announce a statement on issues related to the deportation, deportees, and human rights after the Israeli Cabinet meets.

Abu-Mazin, who is in charge of the file of negotiations with Israel in the PLO, stressed that the Palestinian interest and concern over the unity of Arab ranks prompted the Palestinians to make the decision to participate in the talks. He added: If we had no interest in participating, we would not have participated in the talks in the first place. [passage omitted]

Abu-Mazin played down the importance of the reaction of certain Palestinian factions who warned the Palestinian delegation of returning to the negotiating table. He said: Traditional Palestinian opposition has always existed in the Palestinian arena and opponents are there. However, I would like to assert that nobody would dare harm any member of the Palestinian delegation. Opponents are used to saying what they want and then walking away. These warnings will have no effect.

Abu-Mazin said that the Palestinians are waiting for Egyptian officials to communicate to them details on several matters and new developments following the return of Usamah al-Baz, head of the Egyptian president's office, from Tel Aviv.

Alleged Hamas Threat Repudiated

PM2204140593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 4

['Ali al-Salih report: " 'Urayqat: Threat to My Family Cowardly Act; Hamas Denies Any Link with Incident and Rejects Palestinian Infighting"]

[Text] London, Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official has denied that his movement could have in any way threatened to kill Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, or his family if he does not pull out of the negotiations. 'Urayqat declined to link the threat incident, which he described as a cowardly act, and the statement of the 10 factions, including Hamas, opposed to the peace process, in which they urged citizens in the occupied territories to demonstrate in front of the homes of the Palestinian delegation's members.

The Hamas official and 'Urayqat were answering AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's questions about what the British newspaper THE TIMES published yesterday, namely what it said was a statement by 'Urayqat's wife, who lives in Jericho in the occupied West Bank, about Hamas' threat to kill 'Urayqat and burn his house, children, and private car if he does not pull out of the peace negotiations, to which Hamas is opposed and from which it is demanding the Palestinian delegation pull out. Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in the Jordanian capital, Amman, said that "as far as we are concerned, Palestinian-Palestinian infighting is a red line which we do not cross."

Nazzal added that "what was said about a threat issued by veiled elements belonging to Hamas is absolutely baseless." Quarters seeking to push Hamas' name into such practices could be behind it." After stressing his movement's position, which rejects what he termed "the current political process," Nazzal went on to say that "confronting that process should be involve maintaining the escalation against the occupation, not confronting any of the Palestinian people's sons." However, he said that "the Palestinian delegation's participation in the ninth round of negotiations means that it is placing itself in a confrontation with all groups of the Palestinian people, not only Hamas." As for 'Urayqat, he said that that "this cowardly act emanates from quarters which have no significant link with the Palestinian people, and they (that is the quarters responsible) are within our people's reach."

'Urayqat declined to link the incident, which occurred on the day he left the occupied West Bank, and the 10 factions' appeal to the people of the occupied territories to demonstrate in front of the homes of the negotiating Palestinian delegation's members. He said: "I do not see anything like that. I believe that it is just a cheap and cowardly act which has no other dimensions."

'Urayqat emphasized that "that incident will have no effect on his political position." He went on to say that "we of the negotiating delegation are volunteers working for our cause and the cause of our people. We have no narrow personal interests. So we reject blackmail from any party while the occupation authorities continue to work to blackmail our people as a whole."

'Ashrawi Denies Body Guards

TA2204183293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] Returning from Amman this afternoon, the Palestinian delegates felt apprehension in the wake of the numerous threats they received from several organizations—mainly Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—which are opposed to the peace talks. East Jerusalem residents reported that as soon as the delegates crossed the Allenby Bridge, body guards were attached to each of them. Yet Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the delegation, asserted that the guards were the same people who have surrounded the delegation since the talks began.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] Well, we have always had some people around, and as you know, we don't have any professional or trained people with arms or anything. No, these are just people who want to be around to make sure that nobody does anything irrational, and I think that the whole issue is highly exaggerated. [end recording]

It should be noted that a leaflet disseminated in the territories by Fatah today warns peace process opponents against attempting to harm the delegates.

Dr. 'Ashrawi further stressed that the Palestinians had decided that Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, will participate in the bilateral negotiations with Israel, but will not replace Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. According to her, the resignation of Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib and Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, representatives of the Communist Party, will hardly affect the talks.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] Well, as you know, our delegation is made up of more than 12 or 14 people. We have a pool that reaches over 20 in number, so if two of them don't show up for one ("round), there can be others. [end recording]

Dr. 'Ashrawi noted that as a result of Israeli pressure on the population in the territories, many residents have lost faith in the peace process.

Editorial Praises Decision

TA2204154293 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Decision of Concern for the Peace Process"]

[Text] The intensive Arab and Palestinian discussions and consultations in several Arab capitals resulted in yesterday's announcement in Damascus in which the Arab parties participating in the peace process proposed next Tuesday, 27 April, as the date for the ninth round of negotiations.

This round was supposed to convene two days ago, in accordance with the date set by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, but the absence of U.S. guarantees in response to Palestinian demands led to this postponement and to intensified Arab-Palestinian contacts, as well as to enhanced contacts on various levels with the U.S. Administration regarding the need to provide a clear response to the demanded guarantees.

Apparently, the series of political and diplomatic developments that took place over the past few days led to yesterday's Arab announcement affirming the eagerness of all the Arab parties, including our Palestinian side, to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

Hence, in the interval of the few days left until the proposed date for resuming the talks, it is expected that the region will witness a wave of political statements by the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Israelis, and the Americans dedicating themselves to a successful ninth round in accordance with a common resolve to achieve actual peace through practical and resolute steps.

The question here is not that of mere rhetorical statements but of measures being taken in the field, especially by the Israeli side in terms of the current closure, because talk of "political separation" is one thing, while collective punishment such as that involved in the closure is a totally different matter.

Students Protest Against Talks

TA2204151693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 16:30 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] About 60 female students of the Islamic University in Gaza demonstrated this morning opposite the home of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. They raised placards condemning the Palestinian delegation's decision to participate in the ninth round of talks in Washington. The demonstrators dispersed peacefully after the arrival of an army unit at the scene.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments

JN2204191893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] In Amman, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that Palestinian differences do not concern the issue of peace. He noted that the seriousness of the U.S. assurances will be reflected in the extent of Israel's compliance with resolutions of international legitimacy.

In statements to our political affairs correspondent upon arrival in Amman after taking part in the coordination meeting of Arab parties to the peace process, Qaddumi added:

[Begin Qaddumi recording] This decision expresses the unity of the Arab stand. This was the first objective. We were facing many options. The easiest of these options was bitter. In other words, we chose the lesser of two evils in order to give the world public opinion the opportunity to be with us during these negotiations. We know that these negotiations are arduous and follow a tortuous path. We must take into consideration that this is a new administration that should be put to a practical test. This is the first round of talks in the era of this new administration.

The differences do not concern the negotiating process itself. However, there are basic obligations and requirements that have to be met before entering these negotiations. The negotiations are a political domain unto themselves. They are part of political action and the only direction we are taking. [end recording]

Paper Urges Unity

TA2204192293 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Perilous Stage and the Required Unity of the Ranks"]

[Excerpts] The cordon states' foreign ministers held a final meeting in Damascus yesterday at the end of which they announced their agreement to attend the ninth round of peace talks, which will be resumed on 27 April in Washington. The final communique contained unanimous support for this decision. The cordon states' consultations had continued since they began on 29 March in view of the complex situation and in anticipation of the results of contacts and consultations between the Arab parties concerned and the cosponsors of the peace conference, aimed at removing the obstacles being placed by Israel in the path of negotiations.

If the decision to return to the talks received a lukewarm reception in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the main reason for that is that the Palestinian masses are not sure of the benefit of those talks. When a Palestinian resident looks at the outcome of eight rounds of Arab-Israeli talks, he discovers that all that the Palestinians have reaped is more disappointment. Israel has escalated its practices against the Palestinian people. Those practices reached their climax in the deportation of 400 Palestinians from their homes to Marj al-Zuhur, imposing a siege on our people three weeks ago, dividing the West Bank and Gaza Strip into three cantons, surrounding Jerusalem, and preventing West Bank and Gaza Strip residents from entering the city.

Despite all these arbitrary Israeli measures, the Arabs and the Palestinians showed the utmost restraint and commitment to those talks. Definitely, the decision to

return to the talks did not come to placate the United States or Israel, but stemmed from the prevailing feeling that this would serve the supreme national and pan-Arab interest.

Thus, the Arabs and the Palestinians are going back to the talks not because they were able to link the talks' resumption with the return of the deportees, nor because they obtained an Israeli commitment to stop the practices against Palestinians and lift the siege imposed on them, but because of the absence of an alternative that can bring about gains. [passage omitted]

It is natural that we address a few words here to our people in the occupied territories: Despite the difficulty in the decision to return to the talks, the bitterness we feel, and the disagreements, we should maintain national unity and not allow the Palestinian national fabric to be breached in any way.

'Ashrawi on Peace Process

JN2204185893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Salah Salamah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Salamah] Dr.Hanan 'Ashrawi, the decision to participate in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations did not get a consensus within the negotiating delegation. Will this disagreement reflect negatively on the unity of the members' stand?

['Ashrawi] I do not think so. As members, we have the right to express our own opinion, draw our own analysis, and each member of the Palestinian delegation is capable of making his own conclusions and submitting them to the other members of the delegation and to the Palestinian command in a free and democratic manner. This is what actually took place. There are personal convictions that the negotiations cannot take place by coercion. Negotiations, participation, and accepting this heavy responsibility remains a personal decision while taking into consideration national interests, legitimacy, and the issue of which party makes the decisions. When the leadership made this decision, we decided to abide by it from the premise of responsibility and the eagerness to safeguard the unity of the Palestinian stand and the Arab ranks. We abided by it on this basis and we know that this is a heavy responsibility and entails much suffering, and perhaps criticism and attacks. However, we expect to be up to the level of this responsibility and this challenge.

[Salamah] Setting commitment aside, what is your personal opinion, as spokesperson for the delegation, concerning the forthcoming peace operation in Washington?

['Ashrawi] My personal feeling is that it is a very difficult process. We face a fierce enemy who does not hesistate to use the harshest methods of blackmail and pressure. The enemy's methods are unethical and have been internationally rejected. The enemy uses the people as a hostage and seeks to weaken the negotiating stand through influencing Palestinian public opinion and escalating repression in the occupied territories. We also have many doubts as to the real Israeli intentions and commitment to the peace process. We still need further clarifications about the practical steps, about the U.S. role, about Israel's continued defiance and violation of the terms of reference of the peace process, particularly that it resorts to the fait accompli policy in the occupied territories. I, as well as the other delegation members and even the leadership have such doubts. However, in spite of these doubts the official decision was to participate. We know that you cannot test promises unless you participate in the operation that allows these promises to be carried out.

[Salamah] Dr. Hanan: The Palestinian leadership today warned against harming the negotiating team. Does this warning mean that members of the negotiating team received specific threats? If so, from which party?

['Ashrawi] Speaking for myself, I have not received any threats. Honestly, I heard of two incidents in which some persons received some threats by telephone or at home. However, these were not threats of force.

[Salamah] Individual threats made by unidentified people.

['Ashrawi] Of course, made by unidentified persons. We have heard some provocative statements made by some parties, however, these statements do not contain any direct threats. They only warn against taking these steps. They maintain that accomplishing something at the negotiating table could jeopardize the lives of negotiators. I am of the opinion that these statements are irresponsible and instigative. However, as far as we are concerned, no Palestinian in the occupied territories has attacked anybody else as a result of political differences. Indeed, we have not been subjected to any attacks, or to any attacks on our persons by Palestinians.

[Salamah] Dr. Hanan: The Palestinian opposition factions deemed the decision to participate in the ninth round of negotiations illegal. Some of these factions said that the decision to take part in this round of talks constitutes a relaxation of the conditions the Palestinians set for participation in the negotiations, particularly with regard to the situation in the occupied territories and the deportee issue. What do you have to say in reply to this stand?

['Ashrawi] I do not know how they term a decision to be legal or otherwise. The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. Personal whims cannot be the arbiter, judging a decision to be legal or otherwise.

[Salamah] It has been reported that the PLO Central Council has not endorsed the decision to take part in the ninth round of talks.

['Ashrawi] The PLO Central Council endorsed engagement in the peace process and asked the PLO Executive Committee to follow up on this process. This is what is actually happening. We cannot resort to the PLO Central Council or the Palestine National Council when each and every round of talks convenes, or when each and every decision has to be made. However, if a need a rises for withdrawal from the process, then we will have to resort to the representative bodies which adopted the participation decision to revoke or amend this decision. But, it remains to be said that the PLO Executive Committee is the party tasked with following up on developments pertaining to the rounds of negotiations and with adopting the appropriate decisions regarding these rounds of talks. This will remain the case unless a strategic change in the Palestinian policy endorsed in 1988 occurs—the policy regarding engagement in the peace process or regarding a negotiated solution to the Palestine question. I believe that it is impermissible for people to pursue a selective approach, which renders them willing to carry out certain decisions that are to their liking and unwilling to carry out other decisions that are not to their liking. This approach prompts them to describe decisions that are not to their liking as being illegal.

[Salamah] What about the accusation that the decision constitutes a retraction of the conditions that the Palestinian command had set for the resumption of the negotiations with respect to the situation in the occupied territories and the return of the deportees on the basis of the implementation of Resolution 799?

['Ashrawi] There were no conditions. There were requirements. We all remember the requirements for the resumption of the peace process. We all know that in every negotiation, it is very difficult to get all one's requirements. The parties to any negotiations resort to all methods of persuasion and pressure to obtain these demands. We have formulated an integrated and complete list of several issues which will redress the flaw in the peace operation in terms of the negotiations, the respect for the terms of reference, holding Israel responsible for its practises in the occupied territories, and forcing it to respect human rights, not to mention the invigoration of the role of the sponsors, particularly that of the United States concerning the adoption of an effective and unbiased role. All these are requirements that go together and we cannot separate one requirement from the other and focus our attention only on one specific requirement as being the only precondition. When we spoke about the deportations, we not only addressed the latest such practice by the Israeli Government but we spoke about deportation in a general manner affirming this practise should be completely eradicated and that Israel should not deport others and that the deportees should be returned. In this respect, we succeeded in obtaining the return of deportees since 1967 who had been deported from their homeland for long periods of time. We also got some kind of commitment—which in my opinion is not enough—on giving up the policy of deportation in the future.

[Salamah] Concerning the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, do you believe there will be a solution to their problem soon?

['Ashrawi] We are still actively working to speed up their return in large numbers, and to have them return as soon as possible to their land, houses, and families. However, we should be frank here. We did not get all that we asked for. We won some issues like the representation of Jerusalem. But we did not get anything in other fields. When the leadership tries to measure how much was achieved and whether it is sufficient to return to the negotiations or not, it measures all the factors and developments, including the issue of the deportation and the Jerusalem issue. One should also take into consideration the Palestinian domestic situation, the Arab situation, and the international situation and make a decision in light of all these factors and not on the basis of only part or some of these factors.

[Salamah] Dr. Hanan: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been asserting since yesterday—that is, since the announcement of your intention in Damascus to participate in the talks—that Israel will not make any concessions to the Palestinians or to other Arabs for that matter during the upcoming round of talks. However, President Yasir 'Arafat, Steering Committee Chairman Faysal al-Husayni, and yourself have spoken of tangible measures which could be made this week, and also of Israel and U.S. pledges to facilitate the resumption of talks. Do you have any specific promises in this regard? And do you expect to obtain anything before you head for Washington on Tuesday?

['Ashrawi] The promises we have been given concern the introduction of tangible measures as soon as the negotiating process is resumed. We are still in the process of defining these measures and the extent of Israel's compliance with them. Of course, we expected Israel to take tangible measures in the occupied territories. But, as a matter of fact, the steps it has taken are escalatory steps that can only worsen the situation. But, from the outset, we have trusted neither Israeli promises, nor even the promises we obtained from the United States in the past—the promises which failed to be honored. We continue to work to bring about this change. The mere adopting of a decision does not mean that there will be no follow-up work to ensure that these promises are honored. There is a need for intensive follow-up work. As you are well aware, Arab and Egyptian efforts are being made in this regard. Mr. Usamah al-Baz [head of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs] came here to visit Rabin to express this stand. Besides, the Americans are doing follow-up work on these promises. The only way to know how far Israel will go to honor these promises is by getting engaged in action and judging from the field, and not by mere words.

[Salamah] Dr. Hanan: Do you personally expect to obtain anything specific before the resumption of the ninth round of talks in Washington on Tuesday?

['Ashrawi] Personally?

[Salamah] Yes.

['Ashrawi] I do not trust Rabin or his intentions at all. I have never had such trust. I am well aware that he will use the most unethical methods to apply pressure and blackmail. He will use the issue of human rights as a tool of pressure. In my opinion, I do not expect him to take any steps before the start of the negotiations. This is because he wants to use such steps as a tool of pressure. Of course, this is a serious stand. Furthermore, it would be in violation of agreements he concluded, of promises he made to the United States. Anyhow, these are issues on which follow-up work is needed.

[Salamah] Dr. Hanan: The ninth round of bilateral talks will in fact be the first round of talks to be held under the Clinton administration. Do you expect the new U.S. Administration to play a more effective role than the one played by the Bush administration to accelerate the negotiating process and eventually help the peace process achieve its objectives?

['Ashrawi] Indeed, I do expect this. It goes without saying that we have promises. As I have already said, [laughs] we are not content with promises. There is some sort of specificity and specialness with regard to the United States playing the role of a full partner in the talks. We have gone to great lengths in discussing the meaning of this term in the peace process. A full partner is bound to be neutral. It should not play a pro-Israel role. This full partner will not be expected to conclude bilateral deals or agreements with any party to weaken the position of another party or to assist a specific party, thus showing bias toward that party. We debated the mechanism of this role, the meaning of this role. Of course, it means intervention when there are impasses by way of submitting proposals to narrow gaps, by way of making the parties concerned comply with the terms of reference, by way of rendering the peace process a mechanism for change in the region and in the atmosphere of the process as a whole. This is deemed effective intervention.

Furthermore, the Clinton administration is publicly committed to these issues, to ensuring respect for human rights, to the realization of the legitimate Palestinian national rights, and also to underscoring the terms of reference as well as the principles and foundations enshrined therein, such as the notion of exchanging land for peace. Of course, the implementation of all this is what counts. This is what we will actually examine during the upcoming round of talks.

[Salamah] Thank you, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, for this interview which you provided to Radio Monte Carlo.

Al-Husayni on Resumption of Talks

NC2304094893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian advisory team to the Middle East peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" Program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Before the Arabs' agreement to resume the next round of the peace talks on 27 April, the Palestinian delegation said it wanted certain guarantees. Now that you have agreed to participate in this round, what guarantees have you secured?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, it is not a matter of guarantees as much as making sure that some measures will be taken and that the situation will develop according to the same timetable discussed previously. The requested guarantees were that there should be wider participation in presenting these guarantees. Not only guarantees from the United States or Israel, but also to make other parties, the Arab parties taking part in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, participate with us in listening to these guarantees and to assure them that a positive development will take place, not mere promises. [Word indistinct] this impression will remain until the end of this round of negotiations so that we all can decide whether our impressions have been right and how we will act if they are not.

[Abu-al-Majd] Have you obtained specific things from the United States or Israel in return for the resumption of talks?

[Al-Husayni] Of course, there are many pending issues, such as the deportation and deportees. There is an Israeli statement, the gist of which means that deportation will not be (?used) as long as the negotiations are in progress. The second point is that the deportee file since the occupation in 1967 has been reopened and we will begin to see them return, God willing, with one group returning as the negotiations begin.

[Abu-al-Majd] Have you obtained any other guarantees, especially because the new U.S. Administration issued a statement through President Clinton that it is committed to Resolutions 242 and 338 and to reaching a final solution to the Palestinian problem?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, actually this administration committed itself in one way or another during the election campaign to numerous slogans, and we had to make sure that its policies would not be different from that of the previous administration on many issues, especially Jerusalem. We have secured these assurances, whether on Jerusalem or the commitment to Resolution 242 and all references of the negotiating process. Furthermore, they announced their readiness to play the role of full

partner in the sense that they will propose plans, not only urge the parties to submit their own plans. This has been guaranteed.

We also raised with them and with Arab brothers many issues, problems, and concerns that preoccupy us as Palestinians. I believe all indications point to the fact that we are proceeding on the right track.

[[Abu-al-Majd] Your participation in the Palestinian delegation and Israel's approval of it aroused many questions. Some said it amounts to a deal for your return to the negotiating table and others said it heralds a good omen to place the Jerusalem issue on next round's agenda. More specifically, what does your participation in this round as a primary member of the delegation mean?

[Al-Husayni] First, it means the Israeli condition that they would withdraw from the talks if a person like Faysal al-Husayni takes part—the condition that led to the fall of the previous national unity government in Israel—no longer exists. This new Israeli policy is more realistic. There is another more realistic Israeli act: It is that Israel dealt with my presence in this process officially, although I was involved from the beginning in this process. I believe that by this stand, they did something more realistic, which signals the right position. We hope to see further steps that will undoubtedly facilitate this process, leading to a comprehensive and just solution in the whole region.

[Abu-al-Majd] There is an extremely important point at this stage: The United States has said it will play the role of a full partner in the negotiations. Did you sense this during your recent talks in Cairo and Damascus and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's contact with you? Are there specific measures the United States said it will carry our during the talks, due to resume in a few days in Washington?

[Al-Husayni] Let me comment on this briefly. I believe we have seen intense U.S. activity during this stage more than we have seen in numerous phases during the previous administration. I will not judge this, however, before I see the results.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are there specific issues you will focus on in this round?

[Al-Husayni] We will focus on the essence of the negotiating process, certain measures that might take place on the ground, and some outstanding issues. The resumption of talks does not mean we have abandoned certain demands, whether on human rights or on the deportees in Marj al-Zuhur. We still regard Israel's solution as insufficient and that a more suitable solution must be found in line with and under Resolution 799.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some say you will lead the Palestinian delegation in the next stage. Is this true?

[Al-Husayni] No, actually I am the head of the team that covers the multilateral and bilateral tracks. The bilateral course is led by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the multilateral by Dr. Muhammad al- Hallaj. In my capacity as head of the team, I have the right to attend both sides' meetings and supervise coordination between the two paths. The heads of the delegations will remain as they are.

[Abu-al-Majd] Many Arabs, including the man on the street, still wonder about the deportees. Have you secured specific guarantees on this issue from the U.S. Administration or Israel through the recent intense contacts?

[Al-Husayni] Let me say that we have begun to open the file of deportation comprehensively and [word indistinct], including those deported in 1967 whose return seemed almost impossible. This issue has been overcome and efforts to find solutions for them have begun. The problem is the changing of conditions for the return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees. We will work on the problem in the next round, God willing.

[Abu-al-Majd] Some say a rift in the Palestinian fold has occurred as a result of the decision to attend the next round. How true is this?

[Al-Husayni] I do not believe there is rift. There is a variance of views and various contradictory recommendations. However, in the end we have a leadership whose decision is respected. This leadership takes into consideration the various views and recommendations and has the right to make the final decision regardless of whether it is accepted at this stage.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally, how do you assess Egypt's role in the recent stage, which led to the participation of all Arab parties in the next round of the Middle East peace talks?

[Al-Husayni] I believe Egypt has devoted its capabilities to this process. President Mubarak has conducted several tours, as have his aides and ministers, and means have been placed at our disposal to reach suitable decisions in the proper time. All these have been good, positive measures.

Israel To Allow Return of 30 Long-Term Deportees

NC2204143793 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, April 22 (AFP)—Israel will allow 30 Palestinians deported years ago to return home next week following the resumption of the Middle East peace talks on Tuesday, a Palestinian spokeswoman said.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, who warned of a Palestinian boycott if their demands are not met during the negotiations in Washington, said the men were among the hundreds thrown out between the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and the start of the intifadah or uprising in December 1987.

But she would not give any further details on Thursday. Israel has offered a series of concessions to be announced only when the talks are back on track, a senior Israeli official said. [passage omitted]

35 Deportees Reportedly To Return in 'Few Days'

JN2304140193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] In the next few days, Israel is expected to announce a list of Palestinians who have been deported since 1967 and who will be allowed to return to the occupied territories under an agreement that was reached with the United States. This agreement stipulates that Israel will undertake an initiative to show its good intentions after the Arab parties announced they would participate in the bilateral negotiations.

Our radio has learned that the Palestinian side has submitted a list of 50 names through the U.S. Consul-General in Jerusalem Molly Williamson and that so far agreement was reached on 35 of these names, while the negotiations continue with respect to the other 15 names.

Israel has set several conditions on the return of these deportees. Among these conditions is that none of them should have directly participated in military operations, none have occupied an official post within the PLO, and none are among the intifadah deportees.

The following are among those who might return in the next few days: Akram Haniyah, 'Arafat's adviser for occupied territories affairs, deported in 1986; 'Abd-al-Jawad Salih, former al-Birah mayor, deported in 1973; Hanna Nasir, Bir Zayt University president, deported in 1974; Marwan Barghuti, from the Bir Zayt University, deported in 1987; Muhammad Milhim, former PLO Executive Committee member, deported in 1980 when he was mayor of Halhul; his brother Mustafa Milhim, deported in 1974; 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, Palestine National Council member, deported in 1976; 'Azmi al- Shu'aybi, al-Birah municipal council member, deported in 1986; Amin Maqbul, from al-Najah University, deported in 1985; Khalil 'Ashur, president of the Al-Najah University students union, deported in 1987; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] members Hasan 'Abd-al-Jawad, deported in 1985, and Mahmud Fanun, deported in 1986. The latter was elected PFLP Political Bureau member at the PFLP congress in Damascus earlier this year.

PLO Official Condemns Assassinations, Calls For Dialogue

NC2204130693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Abu-al-Sa'id Murad, secretary of the PLO groups in south Lebanon, has condemned terrorism and assassinations by Israel in the occupied areas. [as heard] He said that a solution to this bloody spiral hinges on several factors, primarily signing a code of honor by all Palestinian groups to stop assassinations, continuing dialogue, and seeking a meeting between the leaders of the pro-'Arafat Fatah and Fatah—the Revolutionary Council to halt this spiral of ongoing acts of violence.

Fugitives From Territories Said Detained in Egypt

TA2104195893 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Cairo—QUDS PRESS—Palestinian fugitives have appealed to humanitarian bodies and institutions to intercede with the Egyptian authorities to secure their release from prison. Palestinians detained by the Egyptian security authorities at Cairo's Mazra'ah Prison have said that the Egyptian authorities arrested them after they crossed the Egyptian border from the occupied Gaza Strip. The detainees stressed that the Egyptian authorities did not allow them to cross from Egyptian territory into other countries to which they intended to go.

The detainees said that they were forced to leave the occupied territories following the disclosure of their identity and out of fear of being detained by the occupation authorities, which would have caused the revelation of many secrets. [passage omitted]

QUDS PRESS has obtained a document that includes the names of 56 Palestinians who were detained in Egyptian prisons after crossing the Egyptian borders. The list, obtained from press sources close to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, includes the names of prisoners who have been held in Egyptian prisons for more than two years. The list also includes the names of fugitives, such as Bashir Hamad and Talal Talab, accused by the Israeli authorities of carrying out operations against Israeli military targets and killing a number of Israeli soldiers, including the soldier that was killed near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron last November, for which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] claimed responsibility. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Two 'Terrorists' Killed, 27 Arrested in Tipaza

LD2204224693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] A statement from the Directorate of National Security says that the security forces of Tipaza Province were able this week to discover a terrorist gang made up of 43 people, 27 of whom were arrested, 2 were killed, and the other 14 are being sought. Those who are being sought are under the leadership of Azaoumi Zoheir, alias Ha mida. Their activities during the last 15 months includes the sabotage of economic installations and assassinations. The last of these attacks was on 18 March 1993 in Douaouda, when they assassinated a police inspector and wounded one security man.

The security forces also seized large quantities of weapons, explosives, and stolen cars.

FIS Leader Madani Reportedly 'Tortured' in Jail

LD2204160693 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Athens, April 22, IRNA—The son of the leader of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said his father Abassi Madani was tortured and beaten in jail and was sick. Usama Madani, speaking to IRNA by phone from Germany, Thursday said his elder brother visited the FIS leader in jail last week and found that he was beaten.

"They have mistreated him. My elder brother visited him last week and found signs of beating. Therefore the leaders have decided to begin hunger strike in protest since last Saturday," Usama said.

A former university lecturer in educational psychology, Madani 52, headed the FIS during its 30-month life from registration to its banning in March last year. He himself was arrested in 1991.

Usama said the military-backed regime is in a "hopeless state and does not know what to do." Every week, he said, about 50 agents of the regime were being killed in clashes with Islamists. "The regime is on the verge of death. Therefore it is acting in panic. The confrontation is on its highest pitch and God-willing soon an Islamic state as desired by the people will be created in Algeria," Usama underlined

The military-backed regime, supported by the west, cancelled the run-off elections in January 1992 after FIS won the first round of elections in December. Thousands of Islamists are still being held in prison camps under inhuman conditions in the desert.

Belaid Abdessalem Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister

LD2204172193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalem received Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya at the government headquarters today. Talks between the two sides focused on bilateral cooperation and ways to boost it.

Cooperation Committee Reaches Agreement With Tunisia

LD2204155793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The Grand Algerian-Tunisian Cooperation Committee concluded its 10th session today after discussing the promotion of cooperation in the various fields.

The session was crowned this morning by the signing of two agreements for cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia in the field of marine navigation and social security. Colleague Masuoud Boulteour attended the closing session and prepared this report:

[Begin Masuoud recording] This session began only weeks after the signing of the border agreement between Algeria and Tunisia during the visit of Ali Kafi, chairman of the HSC [Higher State Council], to Tunisia, an agreement that opened new prospects for cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia, especially in the development of border areas.

The session was crowned by the signing of two agreements, the first for cooperation in the field of marine transport and marine navigation and the second on cooperation in the field of social care. It was also agreed to promote the existing cooperation projects, particularly in the field of joint companies set up in the border areas, such as the White cement company and the Socamo company for turbine manufacturing. The need to eliminate the problems facing those two companies to enable them to respond to the population's needs and to raise its standard of living was stressed.

It is worth noting here that the two countries have decided to abandon the establishment of some joint companies which were agreed upon some years ago but have not yet seen the light of day as they have become infeasible.

The subject of the movement of people and goods attracted a great deal of attention during this session. What is new here is that the two countries have agreed on issuing a residence card which will be valid for 10 years instead of renewing it every year, as the practice is now.

The final statement of the 10th session of the joint committee stressed the resolve of the two countries to uproot the roots of extremism and terrorism in all their forms to ensure the conditions of security and stability. The statement reiterated the two countries' keen interest

in reinforcing the efforts aimed at consolidating the democratic march and human rights. It was also agreed to hold the 11th session of the grand committee in Tunisia. [end recording]

Egypt

Al-Baz Returns From Israel, Comments on Talks

NC2204213393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo tonight following a one-day visit to Israel.

Upon his return, he stated that he had delivered a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin about the latest developments regarding the peace efforts, especially after it became certain that the bilateral negotiations between Israel and all the Arab parties will resume on 27 April.

Al-Baz added the message also touched on the policies that all the parties could pursue in the next few months with the aim of making concrete progress in the peace process as soon as possible, both with regard to conditions in the occupied territories and the peace operation in general.

Al-Baz pointed out that the Israeli prime minister asked him to carry to President Mubarak a written message in which he explains his views. Rabin stressed that Israel is committed to the peace process and is willing to do everything possible to facilitate it and achieve progress. Al-Baz said Rabin also welcomed the active role Egypt has been playing throughout the process.

Israeli radio announced tonight that among the issues discussed during al-Baz's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres were human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, offering tax breaks, and easing the security cordon around the West Bank and Gaza.

Defense Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia, Comments

NC2304083793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi returned to Cairo this afternoon from Saudi Arabia following a six-day visit to that country at the invitation of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general.

In an arrival statement, Gen. Tantawi said his visit achieved good results with regard to strengthening bilateral military cooperation, adding that the outcome of this cooperation will be felt soon.

The defense minister said that during his stay in Saudi Arabia he met with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Prince Sultan; and other senior Saudi officials. Saudi officials, he added, harbor feelings of love, amity, and fraternity for Egypt and closely follow events here. The brotherly Saudi people and Army also have great appreciation for Egypt and its people, Tantawi said.

Gen. Tantawi noted that once strategic cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia takes place, it will have a direct effect on security in the Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Middle East and an indirect effect on security throughout the region.

The defense minister said that during his visit an agreement was reached to form bilateral committees to coordinate cooperation between the various services of the armed forces of the two brotherly countries.

Gen. Tantawi said the general framework of cooperation has been drawn out and the committees will hold regular meetings. The first task of the committees, he remarked, will be to set a timetable for meetings.

Bilateral military cooperation will feature joint exercises as well as the exchange of expertise in military industrialization and combat techniques. This will achieve a mutual benefit for both sides, Gen. Tantawi said. The cooperation will also include joint navy maneuvers, the exchange of friendly ports of call by naval ships of both countries, and the granting of scholarships, he added.

Asked about the future course of Egyptian-Saudi relations, the defense minister said bilateral relations are strong. He pointed out that Egyptian and Saudi forces fought on the same side during the Gulf war. Gen. Tantawi said bilateral cooperation will undergo a qualitative and quantitative improvement.

Concerning the role of Egypt and Saudi Arabia in consolidating security in the Gulf and the Red Sea, the defense minister said he discussed this topic with Saudi officials, adding that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are the two largest Red Sea littoral countries. The two countries have agreed to cooperate to guarantee the security of the Red Sea, he said, noting that this matter will be discussed further at the meetings of the committees formed for this purpose.

Gen. Tantawi said Arab national security is indivisible and the security of one Arab country is linked with that of other Arab countries.

The defense minister said claims that the Damascus Declaration is faltering are incorrect and illogical, adding: The Damascus declaration is a political, economic, military, and security package and there has been no backtracking or faltering on any of its aspects. He pointed out that cooperation in such matters cannot take place overnight.

Gen. Tantawi praised the quality of Saudi military industries, saying what he saw during his visit to Saudi Arabia calls for pride. Considering the time that elapsed since the Saudis launched these industries, the achievement is impressive, he said.

Details of Mubarak-Rabin Talks Reported

NC2204173993 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 20

[Report by Tariq Hasan]

[Text] During their recent talks, President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin discussed the details of a comprehensive U.S. plan calling for the conclusion of bilateral agreements between Israel and each Arab side, similar to the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David Accords. The shape, substance, and procedure of these agreements will vary in each case.

The proposed plan calls for a genuine settlement between Israel and Syria and between Israel and the Palestinians. This will be followed by agreements involving Jordan and, later, Lebanon.

Concerning Syria, the plan calls for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 1967 border, for the signing of a peace treaty between the two sides, and for a phased normalization of Israeli-Syrian relations. Syria must also recognize Israel, at least implicitly. The United States and Israeli agree on this.

The proposed plan links the conclusion of the Syrian-Israeli treaty with a phased Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. The two issues will proceed simultaneously over a proposed period of three to five years. There is a possibility that Syria may deal positively with these new proposals.

As for the Palestinian issue, the talks focused on self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel suggested self- rule should last five years, but the Ismailia talks reduced this figure to three years. One lingering dispute concerns Israel's right to expel more Palestinians. The Israelis refuse to make any promises on this unless a peace agreement is reached with the Palestinians.

On Jordan, it is thought that an Israeli agreement with Syria and the Palestinians will open the door to relatively easy negotiations leading to a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel.

As for Lebanon, at issue is Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territory in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425. But the U.S. plan calls for Lebanese-Israeli negotiations on the manner of withdrawal and on the dividing line between the two sides. This point is controversial. It will give rise to different interpretations by Lebanon and Israel concerning this question: Will Israel withdraw all the way to the international border or to [a line within] the border strip held by a pro-Israeli Lebanese militia?

Arab sides participating in the negotiations call for stronger U.S. assurances concerning the direction of the talks and want the United States to assert its presence as a full partner in the peace process. Diplomats believe the ninth round of talks will clarify the basic concepts defining the peace settlement.

Diplomatic Relations To Be Established With Bosnia

NC2304060993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that Egypt and the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina have agreed to establish diplomatic relations. He emphasized that the decision reflects the Egyptian people's solidarity with the Bosnian people's steadfastness vis-a-vis aggression and the government's determination to support the Bosnian republic's efforts to preserve its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Musa added that the agreement embodies the ties of fraternity, friendship, and amity linking the two peoples. He added that he trusts the day will come when the Bosnian republic will take its international role and attain its aspirations for development and prosperity.

Israeli Defense Ministry Official Arrives 21 Apr

NC2204085693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—David 'Ivri, Israeli Defense Ministry director general, arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv yesterday evening on a visit that will last several days.

While in Cairo, the Israeli official will hold talks with Egyptian officials.

Mubarak Receives Moroccan Foreign Minister

NC2004132193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who later left for Amman, and Abdellatif Laraki, Moroccan ambassador in Cairo.

Foreign Minister Departs

NC2104144093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali departed Cairo today following a three-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

While in Cairo, al-Filali attended the 99th session of the Arab League Council's meetings, which ended in Cairo two days ago.

Yemen's Salih Phones Mubarak, Asks About al-Sharif

NC2204130793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1156 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The two leaders discussed a number of issues and the Yemeni president inquired after the health of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif after the sinful attack he was subjected to the day before yesterday.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Mubarak To Discuss 'Current Issues'

NC2104092693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0851 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the telephone conversation, the two leaders reviewed current issues. Col. al-Qadhdhafi also asked the president about the health of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who was subjected to a vile assassination attempt yesterday.

West Said 'Cooking Something Up' for Mubarak

NC2204184793 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Apr 93 pp 5, 9

[Article by Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Most probably, the official media's exaggerated interest in terrorism is not due to their erroneous recognition of the magnitude and significance of the issue as much as it reflects the Western media position on violence and Islamic fundamentalism. Our media treat the issue as a top priority and focus on discussing what the Western media say about it. How foolish!

They wanted to prove to the Western media that the acts of violence in the United States and Britain are much more than they are in Egypt, as if Western media are unaware of it! They also wanted to prove that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman does not pose a threat to the Egyptian regime and is different from Khomeyni! The issue of Shaykh 'Umar has confused them so much that they cannot explain it. When they realized the man could not have entered the United States and stayed there secretly, they argued that his links, and those of his followers, with the Central Intelligence Agency must go back a long way and that he made a fortune out of them!

To those genius writers, I say: Of course 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman did not enter the United States secretly. We may disagree with the scholar, but I do not think there is any room to question his national integrity. The spotlight focused on him nowadays puts him up for assassination, not power, and the man knows it. During 'Id al-Fitr, he sent the press a will, written, it would seem, in his own blood.

No matter how you interpret the United States' decision to keep Shaykh 'Umar on its territory, it is certain that it does not mean the United States backs the Islamic movement or could be lenient with it, as some of you naively imagine. If the Americans truly believed the acts of violence have gone beyond acceptable limits and threaten their schemes of hegemony, they would act themselves. And if they truly believed 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is the awaited Khomeyni, they would not have left him free to propagate his cause among the people. If Western media are exaggerating an imminent "Khomeynite" revolution, their main purpose is to incite our regime to cooperate further with the Zionist security agencies to combat Islam—codenamed fundamentalism nowadays—if it wants to remain in power!

Let us forget about the exaggerated episode of terrorism and ponder the significance of this media campaign, which uses "Islamic fundamentalism" and concern for Egypt's stability as an excuse and indicates that Western states are cooking something up for President Mubarak! Western media are not free; they follow the state's general policy. During the Cold War, the U.S. media were against Russia. During the era of detente, the tone of the media changed. When perestroika was declared, U.S. media fully backed Gorbachev's new policy. The same thing is true now. If Western media, particularly U.S. media, unanimously criticize Mubarak's policies and question his capabilities, this is not merely "press talk," as we said in previous articles. This is why we likened Mubarak's recent trip to Washington to al-Sadat's last trip, when he was received with noticeable hostility. If some official media personalities are not aware of this, informed politicians definitely realize the significance of events and that what we are saying is correct. The regime's people know that the media campaign shows new intentions on the part of the U.S. Administration. They also know that the pressure they come under is not from the media alone; the political and economic pressure must be horrible.

President Mubarak, despite all he is doing, does not enjoy their full support. The irony is that he does not enjoy the support of most of the national forces either. We do not know what the West will do to him or how far their plots and pressure will go, but we know what the people should do.

Enough claims, then, that we advocate armed violence. The truth is that we are struggling to end the president's monopoly on major decisions and to enable the patriotic forces to participate in real consultative institutions.

This is the correct way to confront the challenges surrounding our nation from every side. We pray to God to guide us and make us triumph.

Mubarak Comments on 'Extremist Violence'

NC2304081693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1544 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Western media exaggerate reports on extremist violence in Egypt. He said the problem we are facing is normal and poses no threat to the regime, as the Iranians and their followers claim. Egyptians, he added, are different than Iranians by nature. In a statement to the British newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES, President Mubarak said Egyptians who use the term Islam without having the slightest idea about it are motivated by foreign elements seeking to stir up disturbances and instability. He said Iran pays them money to do that. He said security agencies know the terrorists by name and had them under surveillance when they began their bombings. He added that the police forces did not begin using machine guns against extremists until after numerous policemen were killed. They then began using these weapons with caution in self-defense because the extremists were more violent with the police force.

President Mubarak said there is no comparison between events in Algeria and Egypt, explaining that Egyptians are completely different in character and way of thinking. He said he hopes terrorism will end within two months.

Mubarak said the professional associations law provides for increasing and expanding the electorate base, particularly because members of professional associations were indignant with groups who uphold intransigent trends and speak on behalf of thousands although they are small in number. He said democracy is the rule of the majority, not the minority.

The president also discussed the appointment of a vice president, saying that merely appointing a vice president does not mean the person will be elected president later. Let us leave the selection of the next president to the people, not to me. He said there is a problem in that there are many figures with distinguished qualifications; however, he added, the post of vice president requires a person with special qualifications. When I find someone with these special qualifications, I will be very happy to have him assume this post.

President Mubarak said he does not believe Egypt will have any problem reaching an agreement with the World Bank or the IMF, stressing that the focus in the current talks with the World Bank is privataization. He noted that the privataization program is proceeding gradually in line with the people's circumstances. He emphasized that the government is paying attention to the problem of unemployment and poor areas, saying that plans have been drawn up to modernize and develop these areas along with the new towns and factories in the desert and Upper Egypt. In the past 10 years, he said, 2 million apartments have been built. Also in the past 10 years, we have installed 2.5 million telephone lines. Before that time, we had only a half million lines, 300,000 of which were inoperative.

Iranians Recruiting Youth To 'Destabilize' Nations

NC2204171193 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Bari]

[Text] In one of the strangest acts of recruitment and of planting beliefs in emptyheaded people, Iran has employed a new method to send its Iranian and Lebanese Hizballah members to Egypt to infiltrate the ranks of the unemployed youth, particularly college graduates. The task of these agents is to tempt the youths to travel to Iran under the cover of claiming that they will be taught what they claim to be the true tenets of religion. They also promise these youths that the Iranian Government will marry them to Iranian and Bosnian girls and give each one money to help him set up a business when he returns, enabling him to earn a livelihood and sparing him the need to look for work in the private and public sectors or government; according to them, monies in these sectors are religiously unacceptable.

In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I, a high-level security source said 20 defendants from among the members of the terrorist organization that was recently apprehended in Alexandria and that planned to overthrow the regime have confessed to going to a camp in the Iranian city of Mashhad, where 1,500 Egyptian, Algerian, Tunisian, Saudi, Pakistani, and Sudanese nationals were being trained. They said marriages were arranged by the camp commander, who belonged to Iranian intelligence, and an ayatollah who taught the trainees that their countries' regimes were infidel. The training included cramming their brains with other ideas, including that the first stage needs organized and collective action to destabilize the regimes of the trainees' countries and that this requires a series of explosions in public places and squares to prove to locals and foreigners that there is no stability or security control. This action is to be followed by the assassination of police officers who arrested their colleagues and, later, by the assassination of judges and court officials who sentenced them in line with secular laws that serve these regimes.

The trainees were also taught that after destabilizing the countries, they could move easily to the second stage: toppling the regime. Then a United Islamic States will be declared under Iran's leadership and will include all the Arab countries, Pakistan, and several Islamic countries in the former Soviet Union.

Interior Minister Rejects Dialogue With Extremists

NC2304060193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2331 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has announced his total determination to restore the citizens' sense of security, which has been shaken by recent terrorist acts. He said specific measures are already being implemented on the matter.

In a statement to Friday's edition of AL-AHRAM, al-Alfi said he will finish drawing up a new security policy in a week with the help of concerned officials. He explained that all the security services will adhere to the new policy to eliminate any contradictions in confronting and handling crimes. He added that the policy will apply to the general security situation.

Al-Alfi added: We must focus on special methods in the current stage, a stage that has seen a significant rise in terrorist acts that increasingly pose a threat to people's lives, security, and livelihood. Such acts are completely at odds with the culprits' false professions of religion.

The interior minister discussed the mediation some ulema are attempting to conduct between the state and terrorist groups, saying: The mere mention of something like this would signify that the state—the governing, capable state—recognizes felonious, illegal entities and is willing to accept mediation. This is totally unacceptable. How can one conduct a dialogue or seek reconciliation with individuals who have challenged the law?

Al-Alfi added: What I know is that the venerable ulema have a role in disseminating and consolidating a sound understanding of religion among the young. They can help the home, school, and the placework by performing this task.

Council of Ministers Endorses Antiterrorist Plan

NC2304065693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2323 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—During a five-hour extraordinary meeting tonight, the approved all necessary financial appropriations to strengthen the capability of the police forces. It also endorsed a plan to secure the domestic front and declared that it will not appease outlaws.

Counselor Ahmad Radwan, minister of state for Cabinet Affairs, said the council discussed the domestic security situation, reviewed reports submitted by agencies concerned about recent incidents in the country, and adopted the necessary decisions to confront these incidents through a comprehensive and decisive antiterrorist plan in which all ministries, governorates, and local authorities will participate. [passage omitted]

Further on Military Court Sentences

NC2204120993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court has also issued sentences ranging between two and 10 years imprisonment against 13 other defendants.

The eight persons sentenced to death are Bastawi 'Abd-al-Majid Abu-al-Sa'd, secondary school student; Sa'd Amin Abu-al-Majd Muhammad, driver; Ashraf Sa'id 'Abd-Rabbuh, student at the higher commercial institute; Drawi Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Muttalib, unemployed; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim Radwan, vegetable merchant; 'Abd-al- Hadi al-Saghir, graduate of a commercial school; 'Abd-al-'Azim Tayi'; and 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Zamqan, painter.

The court sentenced the following defendants to life imprisonment: 24th defendant Badri Makhluf Husayn, lawyer; 34th defendant 'Abd-al-'Ati 'Abbas Jarju, student at al-Azhar University; and 35th defendant Sabir Hamzah Ahmad Mubarak.

The eight defendants sentenced to 15 years in prison are: Hamadnah Qasim al-'Ahd Qasim, vendor; Salah Sa'id 'Abd-Rabbuh, at large; Mansur al-Alfi Marzuq, student at the industrial institute; Yasir Muhammad Mansur al-Sadiq, unemployed; Nasr-al-Din al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Aziz Taha, fisherman; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad, farmer; Najih 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, teacher; and Hisham 'Abd-al-Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman, engineer.

The following defendants were sentenced to 10 years in prison: 23d defendant Muhammad Kamil Mahmud Husayn, student, and 27th defendant Nasir Sayyid Mahmud Salim, student in the industrial secondary school.

The court sentenced to seven years in prison 15th defendant Salah Ramadan Sa'id Hasan, graduate of a vocational training institute; and 20th defendant Hashim 'Ali Muhammad 'Ali Khalifah, student at the al-Mansurah law college.

The following defendants were sentenced to five years in prison: 6th defendant Hasan Sayyid 'Ali Sayyid, student at the higher industrial institute; 16th defendant Ahmad Muhammad 'Izz-al-Din Taha, graduate of a vocational school; and 28th defendant 'Abd-al- Salam Qinawi 'Abd-al-'Al, fisherman.

The court sentenced 40th defendant Samir Muhammad al-Khudari Mahdi, employee of the postal traffic service, to five years in prison with a 1,000-pound fine and 42d defendant Mahmud Madani Muhammad, who is at large, to five years in prison with a 1,000-pound fine.

The Supreme Military court sentenced 5th defendant Ahmad 'Abd-al- Nabi Hijji, student, to three years in prison and a 200-pound fine and 41st defendant Mustafa

'Abd-al-Salam Amin, secondary school student, to three years in prison and a 1,000-pound fine.

13th defendant Ahmad Muhammad Hajjaj, painter, and 26th defendant Abu-al-Fityan Muhammad Muhammad 'Umar, graduate of the teachers institute, were sentenced to two years hard labor.

The court acquitted the following defendants: Radwan al-Tuni Ibrahim Muhammad, lawyer; Mustafa al-Sayyid Husayn 'Abd-al-'Al, lawyer; Ahmad Kamil Muhammad Ahmad Yusuf, student; Ahmad Isma'il 'Ali Ahmad al-Shaykh, unemployed; Usamah Fawzi Sayyid Ahmad Husayn, graduate of the faculty of commerce; 'Abd-al-Jabr 'Abd-al-'Aziz Taha, fisherman; Jabir Qinawi 'Abd-al-'Al, farmer; Jamal Mahmud Ahmad Husayn, school teacher; 'Adil 'Abd-al-Imam Ahmad Shihatah; Hamadah Isma'il Badawi, at large; Muhammad Abu-al-Hajjaj abu-al- Fadl; Sa'd Hasan Harun; Hasan Mikkawi Husayn Mikkawi; Fawzi Mustafa 'Ali, vendor; Ahmad Mustafa Muhammad al-Maghrabi, cook; Ashraf 'Abd- al-Hamid 'Izz-al-Din, graduate of the faculty of commerce; and 'Ali Radi Mahmud Sa'ud, at large.

Reward for Information on 'Militants' Offered

NC2104145993 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, April 21 (AFP)—Egypt has offered a reward of 15,000 dollars for information leading to the arrests of Muslim militants, who on Wednesday claimed an abortive assassination bid on a government minister.

The country's new interior minister, General Hasan al-Alfi, said the offer was designed to "unite the efforts of the population and security services" to combat the militants. The police will "protect informants and conceal their identity," he told the weekly AKHBAR AL-HAWADITH, offering the 15,000-dollar reward, the equivalent of 20 years of average wages for an Egyptian worker.

The underground al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack on Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif in which he was cut by flying glass and his driver and bodyguard were shot and wounded. [passage omitted]

On Sunday, President Husni Mubarak sacked Interior Minister 'Abd- al-Halim Musa and replaced him with al-Alfi in an effort to stamp out violence.

Led by the al-Jama'ah, the militants are locked in a year-long battle with the authorities that has killed some 140 people and dented the crucial tourism industry. [passage omitted]

Islamic Group Lists Conditions for Talks With Government

NC2204204893 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 13

[Report by Hamdi Rizq]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned from Islamic Group sources that the members of the Shura Council of the Islamic Group-al-Jihad Alliance inside Turrah prison held extensive consultations over the past two weeks and contacted Group members outside jail or abroad to adopt a unified position on the initiative taken by the mediation committee charged with organizing a dialogue with the Interior Ministry. The Alliance's Shura Council approved the principle of dialogue and asked members abroad to write to Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman asking his opinion before naming their own delegation for dialogue with the Interior Ministry.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Shafi, an Islamic Group representative in Cairo, declared: The Islamic Group does not reject the principle of dialogue and has long advocated it. This is not the first dialogue involving the Group and government officials. It happened before in Asyut, Suhaj, and Aswan and in some cases, succeeded. The new dialogue has not begun, but we hope it will soon. Bearing in mind recent incidents, violence, and bloodshed, the mediation committee is everyone's lifesaver. The Islamic Group rejects violence. Violence is imposed on it by the security services.

'Abd-al-Shafi detailed the Islamic Group's conditions for dialogue and reconciliation:

First: The dialogue must occur between this committee and the Islamic Group's amir, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman himself, or someone he delegates. Final approval must remain in the hands of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

Second: The release of Islamic Group members from jail, especially those who have been detained for five or six years, must begin immediately as a government initiative to begin the dialogue.

Third: The mediation committee must remember, before it embarks on mediation, that the Islamic Group has a strategic objective that it cannot abandon—the implementation of Islamic shari'ah.

Fourth: The government must permit the Group to observe its religious rites in mosques without harassment. The mosques that have been taken from it forcibly must be returned.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Shafi added: As to who can act for Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, we have the Shura Council of the Islamic Group-al- Jihad Alliance. We have 'Abbud al-Zumar, 'Ali al-Dinari, and others who are Shura Council members. We will reach agreement on the composition of the "Islamic Group" delegation through our contacts between people inside and outside prison.

Our members abroad also accept dialogue. They are ordinary members; none are on the Shura Council. Like other members, they are committed to Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's decisions. I believe no one opposes dialogue and the attempt to end the bloodshed. The Islamic Group has conducted consultations among its members in the governorates to formulate a general opinion about this dialogue. Some individuals adopt a hardline attitude to the dialogue and the figures who will participate in it. We are trying to reach agreement on this dialogue.

Asked if their agreement to conduct the dialogue signified a change in the Islamic Group's strategy and the declared aim of overthrowing the regime, he answered: Our aim is not to overthrow the ruling regime, but to implement Islamic shari'ah and put into practice the principle of promoting virtue and suppressing vice.

'Religious Groups' on Conditions

NC2104153993 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Religious groups in Asyut have announced their conditions for agreeing to negotiations with the government to end acts of violence. The groups demanded an end to the trial of the defendants in the tourism cases and the release of Mahmud Shu'ayb, official spokesman of the Islamic Group currently detained in the al-Zaqaziq prison. The groups also demanded its conditions be implemented "before" it stops assassinations and exchanges of killings with police.

Commentary Stresses No Dialogue With 'Enemies of Religion'

NC2104145093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Apr 93

['Atif 'Umar Commentary: "Egypt's Honest Media Versus Terrorism's Cheap Media"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Egypt's media reflects the aspirations of the entire people. The media will remain strong in the face of extremism and terrorism until they are wiped out of Egypt. The media will expose their methods and schemes, which are completely alien to our noble religion and its tolerant teachings

The criminal attempt on the life of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif will be confronted decisively and firmly. There will be no easing up when it comes to the rights of society; there will no reconciliation, truce, or dialogue with the enemies of religion, right, and justice. The criminals who chose dialogue with bullets, after having been shackled by the fetters of fanaticism, agentry, treason, and treachery, will receive their punishment. The Egyptian people have voiced their rejection of terrorism and their defiance of these outlaw elements, who jeopardize security, stability, and the interests of the Egyptian people. [passage omitted]

Government Contacts With Islamic Groups Detailed

NC2204065493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has obtained important information revealing the truth about some Arab and international press and radio reports on contacts between the Islamic groups and the security organs.

AL-WAFD has learned that the reports carried by some papers and broadcast abroad were not true and that those who made these statements have nothing to do with the contacts now taking place.

These contacts began when [then] Interior Minister 'Abd-al- Halim Musa received 11 Islamic scholars last week. The five-hour meeting discussed the issue of mediation between the Islamic leaders and the state organs. A three-member committee was then formed and it included a senior Islamic preacher and two prominent Islamic thinkers, one of them a lawyer. The three committee members decided not to hold any interviews or make statements to the press or other media organs. When AL-WAFD contacted one of them the day before yesterday, he refused to reveal the details of what he termed the general plan for reform.

AL-WAFD has learned from its own sources that the three-member committee is exerting intensive efforts to ensure the success of the current mediation and put an end to the bloodshed, acts of violence, and terrorism sweeping the country. The work of the committee was accepted by the leaders of the Islamic groups inside and outside the detention centers as well as by the various state organs. AL-WAFD has also learned that all the parties that the committee met with, both responsible circles and others, were enthusiastic about ensuring the success of these goodwill endeavors. All the parties also showed a large measure of good intentions and full understanding of the real situation. The paper has also learned that the current contacts have not yet dealt with any detailed discussions about any of the two sides' conditions. There are no specific and detailed proposals on any question but a general plan for reform.

Some Arab papers have claimed that the groups' leaders who met with the committee in the detention centers, including 'Abbud al- Zummar, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, and Karam Zuhdi, offered these three conditions for accepting the mediation and stopping the violence and terrorism: Releasing detainees who have not been charged in any cases, stopping torture inside prisons and detention centers, and stopping what they called the physical liquidation of group members.

The mediation is continuing. A responsible source has said it is not new, but there is great hope that it will succeed. No date has been set for concluding the committee's work and declaring the outcome of its contacts with the various parties.

Clampdown on Distributors of 'Fundamentalist' Cassettes

NC2104102993 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] Intelligence police and the bureau controlling movie ratings have drawn up plans to clamp down on those who distribute fundamentalist cassettes in front of mosques and in poor quarters, suburbs, and governorates. The aim is to arrest those handling this type of cassette in the name of religion.

The police will also arrest anyone who distributes or produces cassettes carrying religious speeches without a license from the Islamic Research Center in al-Azhar or without the authorization of the bureau controlling artistic ratings.

The law stipulates that those who distribute religious cassettes without license from the competent departments will be sentenced to no less than three years in prison and will pay a fine of no less than 5,000 pounds. If the same person is caught again he will be imprisoned for six years and the fine will be three times more.

The ministries of interior and culture have also issued stringent instructions: Anyone who listens to these cassettes on his own or with others in taxis or public transport will be arrested.

Islamic Group Member on U.S. Ties, Finances

NC2204200893 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 19

[Text] Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, the second defendant in the case of the murder of [People's Assembly Speaker] Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and who is also accused of instigating the murder of author Dr. Faraj Fudah, has said that the Egyptian Government and media are trying to drive a wedge between the United States and the Islamic Group.

'Abd-al-Ghani said his group does not need foreign assistance, because it is financially self-sufficient. 'Abd-al-Ghani denied any differences between himself and Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, noting that there is a dispute between 'Abd-al-Rahman and 'Abbud al-Zumur [who is serving a prison sentence in connection with the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat].

The Islamic Group has several leaders, not just one, 'Abd-al- Ghani said, adding that 'Abd-al-Rahman is the group's spiritual guide [murshiduha al-rawhiy].

Information Minister Comments on Cabinet Meeting

NC2104065893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Tonight's meeting of the Council of Ministers, chaired by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, discussed the attack on the information minister in light of the interior minister's information on this matter.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the cabinet emphasized the policy of comprehensively confronting all forms of terrorism and that there is no leniency or hesitation in this policy.

Sidqi affirmed that Egypt, as it clings to democracy, does not hesitate to apply the law and preserve legitimacy and it will decisively and firmly confront any act that violates law and legitimacy. He said that there is no link between these criminal acts and Islam.

The interior minister presented the security agencies' policy for achieving stability and preserving the security of the homeland and citizens. He affirmed that a comprehensive review of security plans is currently under way at the local and national level to decide what to do about terrorists who use violence to terrify society and who brush aside all values and turn to using arms to strike at the nation's interests. In his report, the interior minister said that these terrorists will pay a high price for their aggression.

Al-Sharif said that the cabinet agreed to develop the Interior Ministry's policy about comprehensively confronting terrorism nationwide and they endorsed several immediate executive steps.

He added that afterward the cabinet discussed the political and economic outcome of President Mubarak's tour of the United States, Germany, Britain, and France. The cabinet adopted a number of recommendations to follow up on the results of these visits at the ministry and other agency levels to develop political, economic, and technical cooperation between Egypt and these countries.

The information minister said the cabinet also discussed the outcome of last week's negotiations with the IMF delegation that confirmed the eagerness of the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to continue their support of the Egyptian economy. An agreement had been reached on reform programs for the next phase, most importantly on maintaining control over the state's general budget deficit, encouraging and stimulating investment, and raising the standard of essential services, mainly in education and health.

The next stage of negotiations with the IMF in Washington will start at the beginning of next week. The Egyptian delegation will leave for the U.S. capital in a few days, equipped with the cabinet's directives.

July Cabinet Reshuffle To Mark New Stage

NC2304073493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2236 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper reports that the cabinet reshuffle expected next July will mark the effective beginning of a stage of intense national action that will include dealing with the roots of the country's major problems.

In Friday's edition, the paper says the reconstituted cabinet will confront foreign and domestic developments

with new ideas, new methods, and specific objectives that will lead to clear plans implemented firmly and decisively by those able to do so.

Columnist Doubts Government Paper on Minister's Dismissal

NC2204175693 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Apr 93 p 14

[From the "A Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] MAYU, the paper that speaks for the government, said former Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was dismissed for excesses. It said he held contacts with the so-called committee of wise men without consulting the president or the prime minister.

MAYU said that when Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi first asked the former minister if reports about the contacts were true, Musa denied it. Asked again, he surprisingly admitted that members of the committee came of their own accord. He said he met them. According to the paper, high-ranking sources described the minister's holding unilateral contacts as a departure from the requirements of the ministerial team and the commitment to the government's collective responsibility.

If this is true, it is strange. I saw the negotiations between the minister and the wise men. Some prisoners were released and held long meetings with the minister. The contacts dragged on for weeks. It is strange that the prime minister should not hear about these contacts, which were the talk of Egypt.

It makes sense that the prime minister knew about the contacts and when he learned they had failed, he decided to distance himself from them. It is inconceivable that a government minister could hold such important contacts behind the prime minister's back. Had the committee of wise men known that the minister did not have permission to hold the contacts, it would not have engaged in mediation.

All secret negotiations are doomed to failure, because each party gives a different version of the story and the two sides cannot agree on one opinion. The interior minister cannot make concessions in the name of the government without its permission.

People also wonder that if there is a plan for major ministerial changes soon, why the rush to appoint a new interior minister? Perhaps officials believed that the interior minister's conduct encouraged the terrorists who killed a ranking officer in Asyut between two sets of negotiations involving the interior minister and the committee of wise men.

The issue needs clarification. An acceptable, reasonable explanation is required.

Opposition Paper Criticizes Government Economic Reforms

NC2104152093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial: "And.... Seven Lean Years Have Passed"]

[Text] Seven full years have passed since the start of the economic reform plan in late "April" 1987.

Seven full years have passed during which the Egyptians have borne the burden of reforms with recession, stagnation, inflation, unemployment, and a high rise in prices unprecedented in the country's history.

Throughout these seven years, Egyptians have borne what other people could, to a degree that amazed IMF and World Bank officials, who stressed last week that the success of the Egyptian reform plan is unprecedented. This testimony reveals the extent of the Egyptians' patience, pains, sufferings, and deprivations. The Egyptians have paid their dues to the reform plan. Taxes, tariffs, customs, and the prices of commodities and services have increased. Jobs have disappeared and have been replaced by unemployment and poverty. Smiles have vanished, replaced by sadness and gloom.

It is the government's turn now.

Yes. The time has come to reform the government. The armies of employees are impeding the laws and conflicting and contradictory decisions. Mountains of measures and restrictions are deterring anyone wanting to invest money in Egypt.

Above all, there are extravagant and wasteful government expenditures. Some government departments have nothing to do but thwart any progress made by other departments. The reform laws and decisions have been gathering dust in officials' drawers for years!! Where is the housing law regulating the relationship between owner and tenant? Where is the law on unified taxes?

Where is the actual implementation of the business sector law, which was ratified by the People's Assembly two years ago?

The big companies have not been reformed and the small ones have not been sold. Shares have not been placed on the markets and the shares market has not started operation!

The Egyptians have paid their dues. The government is, either intentionally or out of misunderstanding, impeding the implementation of laws and measures bound to increase production and exports. Is this acceptable?! Are we wrong to say there is a secret government with the strength and influence to impede the implementation of the reform measures and state laws!?

President Issues Decree Appointing New Governors

NC2104141193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1316 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued the following decree:

Decree No. 144 issued by the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the year 1993:

Taking the Constitution and the local administration system law issued under Law 43 for the year 1989 and the laws amending it in consideration, the president has decreed:

Article I:

1. Dr. Faruq Muhammad al-Tallawi has been appointed governor of al-Fayyum;

2. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Hashim Shihatah has been appointed governor of al-Jizah;

3. Muhammad Samih al-Sa'id has been appointed governor of Asyut;

4. Muhammad Zahir 'Abd-al-Rahman has been appointed governor of Matruh;

5. Mustafa Ibrahim Sadiq has been appointed governor of Suez;

6. Muhammad 'Izzat al-Sayyid has been appointed governor of al- Wadi al-Jadid;

7. Fakhr al-Din Khalid 'Abduh has been appointed governor of Port Said;

8. Ibrahim Hasan al-Shaykh has been appointed governor of al- Daqahliyah; and

9. Counselor 'Adli 'Abd-al-Shakur Husayn has been appointed governor of al-Minufiyah.

Article II: Mamduh Muhammad Hasan al-Zubayri shall be appointed chairman of the Luxor City Council.

Artcile III: This decree shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued by the presidential office on 25 Shawwal 1419 Hegira corresponding to 21 April 1993.

[Signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Discusses Ties With Egypt, U.S.

PM2204101793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 93 p 7

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih by Arlit Khuri in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] Paris—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has said that the dispute with Egypt over the border triangle of Hala'ib "is to do not with territory, but rather with the way the issue is handled." He said that negotiating to resolve it would be meaningless unless Egypt withdrew its armed presence from the triangle.

He revealed that his country is making contacts with Algeria and Tunisia to improve relations and that a limited number of Algerians and Tunisians live in Sudan as "refugees and have not been allowed to carry out any opposition work against any regime in any Arab country."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH he declined to comment on U.S.-Sudanese relations. However, he pointed to the occurrence of a kind of progress, "which is better not discussed, because they tend to express their alarm whenever we talk about progress with them."

He said that "the problems happening in the Hala'ib triangle reflect the existence of abnormal relations between Egypt and Sudan, when the ties between the two countries and their peoples prompt the existence of normal relations between them."

He added that the present obstacle is the Egyptian military presence in Hala'ib. The issue is not to do with a small or large territory. It is to do with the way the issue is handled. It should be handled by experts and specialists and via dialogue or through arbitration.

Abu-Salih went on to say that "imposing a status quo by military force is unacceptable. And if these relations are to reach the stage we want them to reach as an aim and a dream, conditions must be restored to their status before October 1992, namely when a military occupation took place." [passage omitted]

He stressed the importance of discussion and dialogue between the two sides, saying that the Egyptian side should take a step toward sincerely discussing the problems preventing the establishment of good relations with Egypt.

Abu-Salih said that Egypt "justifies its position toward Sudan by accusing Sudan of becoming a transit point for the export of terrorism from Iran. But the reality is that Sudan is not such, because our relations with Iran are similar to any relations binding us with any other state, Italy for example. With regard to the Islamic model, we in Sudan are Sunni Muslims and follow the Malikite

school of Islamic law, whereas Muslims in Iran are Shiites. We in Sudan have never said or claimed that we have achieved a model which we want to export to other states."

He went on: "Every Arab citizen knows that Islamic movements have emerged in Egypt and that Egypt does not need anyone to tell it about Islamic and fundamentalist movements."

He said that the reason for the campaign launched against Sudan is that "we decided to be independent and resist any hegemony from any quarter. This insistence on independence has caused us to be in the situation we are in. So how can we be accused of being subservient to Iran?" [passage omitted]

He added: "Sudan is accused of supporting opposition Islamic movements when what is happening is the opposite. There are Sudanese opposition groups in Egypt, but we do not raise this matter as a problem. Besides, we refused to be provoked by the Egyptian military presence in Hala'ib. I believe that negotiation with the Egyptian side over Hala'ib should be preceded by the Egyptian forces' withdrawal from the triangle, because we are not prepared to negotiate under occupation. Those lamenting over correcting relations with Sudan must first work to correct the existing mistake. Then it will be possible to engage in a serious discussion of all problems." [passage omitted]

He added: "The West is seeking to harm the independent will to which Sudan is adhering and the independent positions resulting from this will. Among the reasons for the campaign against us is our adoption of the Islamic shari'ah."

As for Egypt and the other Arab states, Abu-Salih believes that "they are seeking to show enmity toward Sudan because of its independent will. The brothers in Egypt tend to confuse consultation, coordination, and unified decisions." [passage omitted]

Asked whether he would meet with Ahmad al-Mirghani, a Sudanese opposition leader, during his time in Cairo, Abu-Salih said that he has contacts with al-Mirghani and that he personally believes that "it is necessary to put personal matters aside and focus on what has been achieved since the military assumed power in Sudan. This is why I invite oppositionists to participate in the efforts being made and in the transitional phase the country is going through, because Sudan is the natural place for these people."

Abu-Salih stressed that "military rule cannot continue in Sudan forever. Sudan's nature prevents it from accepting any oppression. This is because the revolution it witnessed resulted from objective reasons, first and foremost the need to put an end to chaos, instability, and security disruption. The country was in need of a system, unity, and stability. Indeed, major progress has occurred at this level since the military assumed power. Sudan is now open to all its sincere citizens, even if they are oppositionists, provided they adhere to higher national interests."

Abu-Salih denied the existence of duality in the Sudanese authorities via the organs belonging to the Islamic Front. He said that "there is actually harmony between the broad Islamic tendency and the authorities under a state of balance between them based on separation between official government action and mass action." [passage omitted]

Regarding the contacts which Khartoum is having with the United States, Abu-Salih pointed to the existence of a kind of progress, but he said that "it is better not to discuss it, because every time we spoke about progress with the Americans, they expressed their alarm. So we no longer wish to reveal any progress until we attain clear relations based on sound foundations. And any unfounded attack Washington launches against us will be met with a counterattack from our side."

Al-Mahdi Comments on Terms for Dialogue With Regime

PM2204095193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 5

[Interview with former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Maha Muhammad al-Bashir in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Bashir] There is a prevailing belief that among the reasons for the continuation of the "National Salvation Revolution" government is the people's loss of confidence in party leaders, especially you. Some people say that you have forgotten nothing and learned nothing, and that you are good at theorization, whereas the reality conflicts completely with your ideas, especially as these people believe that sectarian parties have no practical institutions and that everything is in the hands of the leader alone.

[Al-Mahdi] The only sectarian party is the [National] Islamic Front party. Whereas the other parties are open to all. They include both Muslims and Christians. As for theorization and talk, it is necessary in the political system in order to persuade people by logic, not by terror and repression. And the best method is dialogue. Despite my overtheorization—as they call it—if a referendum was held now, I would win more votes than those I obtained in the past. The present regime is preoccupied by us because it is fully aware that the people are moving toward us, and matters should be judged by their final results. If my performance was bad, where is the better performance now?

As for the Sudanese people's unwillingness to make a move because they are not convinced of the alternative, the alternative being proposed has nothing to do with individuals. It is an integrated system which provides freedom and is based on parliamentary rule and the ruler's accountability.

It is the present regime which is good at slogans and theorization. Proof of this is the numerous meaningless conferences. As for the accusation leveled at me, I stress that the parliament voted for us with an 80 percent majority. And if free elections are held, the tendency to which I belong will obtain a majority. Besides, I do not sense any coolness in the people's support for us. The masses' failure to stage demonstrations to topple the regime does not mean that they are satisfied with it.

Nevertheless, one day the people are bound to break their silence, because they want a free and just regime, and individuals are not important. And that will not be achieved except through free elections.

[Al-Bashir] If your hope of returning to the leadership is achieved again, would you present your old proposals or has experience given you new plans?

[Al-Mahdi] I do not want to assume any executive responsibility this time. There are other fields for political action: constructional, ideological, and formational. They need my efforts and I will give them the priority.

With regard to executive work, the opportunity is available to others. And if free elections are held, the people will make their choice, and those who are chosen must shoulder their responsibility.

[Al-Bashir] The 'Id al-Fitr speech which you delivered broke the silence you had maintained for a while. Some sources say that your breaking that silence was attributable to encouragement and guarantees from foreign quarters. What is your opinion?

[Al-Mahdi] (Answering with clear emotion) I am very astonished at that accusation, because anyone who is involved in national action does not need encouragement or guarantees from any foreign quarter. I reject that claim, because it casts doubt on my patriotism, in which I have full confidence. We as patriotic politicians are completely capable of shouldering national responsibility. Besides, who said that the 'Id speech was delivered after a period of silence? I delivered similar speeches on 27 Rajab [20 January] and 17 Ramadan [10 March], and I made many press statements and wrote many articles, and I am ready to announce my opinion to any quarter and at any time.

[Al-Bashir] Despite your saying that there is no agreement between you and the salvation government there is whispering that you have agreed in principle to hold a reconciliation dialogue. If this is true, perhaps you will enter it under certain conditions.

[Al-Mahdi] There can be no dialogue or agreement between me and the present regime unless it backtracks and accepts the democratic system. Only then would I welcome a dialogue. And if we enter into a dialogue, our unreliquishable condition is that the matter should be conducted under a national constitutional conference for all the Sudanese. We Sudanese avoid bloody conflicts, abhor violence, and prefer solutions achieved amicably and via dialogue. And despite my strong disagreement with the salvation government, I met with them on some public and private occasions. Social occasions bring us —government and opposition—together. But there is nothing official or any real meeting. And if such a meeting is held by us, the aim will be to peacefully convene a national constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bashir] How would you assess relations with Egypt and Libya? And do you believe that the Libyan leader's statement about his intention to apply Islamic shari'ah is a preliminary step toward announcing a merger with Sudan?

[Al-Mahdi] When we were in power we always believed that there must be a special relationship with Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Uganda, which are neighboring states. So we signed the brotherhood charter with Egypt and agreed to tackle all border, water, and other problems on the basis of justice and mutual interests.

As for relations between Sudan and Libya, they are now worse than they were in the democratic era. Al-Qadhdhafi discussed a number of issues, including the Shari'ah issue, but he has not announced it yet. His Islamic shari'ah is completely different from the salvation government's view. His view of Islam is like that of the republicans here in Sudan (the group of Mahmud Muhammad Taha, who was executed by the Numayri regime). And in my view, at present, and taking account of regional questions, Libya is closer to Egypt than to Sudan.

Regime Seen Facing 'Internal, External Isolation'

NC2304100293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0744 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Reports from Khartoum say the Sudanese regime is facing internal and external isolation, which affects the economy and ties between the government and military establishments and the National Islamic Front [NIF]. The reports rule out any differences between Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, who describes himself as the secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress, and General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, because they think they are in the same boat and that the differences reported once in a while are fabricated. The isolation facing the Sudanese regime prompts the government to raise marginal issues to divert the public, issues such as Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Hala'ib, and the problem in south Sudan, which the Sudanese regime plans to separate from the north to ease the burdens it faces and to respond to Western schemes.

These reports say the ruling regime in Sudan recently tried to win former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi over to the NIF, "the de facto ruler of Sudan," to get it out of its internal isolation. These attempts failed, as evidenced in the speech al-Mahdi made on 'Id al-Fitr in

which he attacked the al-Bashir regime and described it as extremist, opposed to human rights, and painting an ugly picture of Islam. He declared his refusal to cooperate with it as long as it adheres to its extremist line. Al-Mahdi said the Sudanese regime's relationship with Iran is based on hypocrisy, because "there are ideological differences between the NIF and the Shiites."

Reports from Khartoum say NIF members control the Sudanese economy and that senior NIF leaders, such as al-Fatih 'Abdun, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Ali al-Haj, 'Ali Ya'qub, Yasin 'Umar al-Imam, and 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, cause the Front to lose the confidence of the Sudanese people, who are forced by circumstance to remain in Sudan. Hundreds of reporters and political party leaders fled the country and chose to live in London and Cairo to organize external opposition linked with the movement in the south against the regime in the north.

Political circles believe the ruling regime in Sudan implements Western plans by:

1. Separating the south from the north.

2. Raising problems with Egypt and entrenching hostility with it to destroy the greater goal of both peoples of the Nile valley—the valley's unity.

3. Making Sudan a den for extremist religious groups and threatening Egypt's security in the south to maintain instability and lack of security in the region. This is the goal of schemes that are historically hostile to Egypt.

4. Halting development plans in Sudan and depriving the Sudanese people of their national resources in agriculture, oil, and mining.

5. Undermining the traditional national political forces struggling since independence for stability and development in Sudan—represented in the national political parties and forces.

6. Harming and distorting Islam and portraying it as a religion based on terrorism and brute force, which serves Islam's enemies.

GCC Welcomes Easing of UAE-Iran Tension Over Islands

PM2204100993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp1, 4

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Gulf Satisfied With Receding Tension Between Tehran and Abu-Dhabi"]

[Text] Riyadh—Gulf diplomatic circles have expressed satisfaction with the new positive developments in relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands of Abu-Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra.

Informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, as a result of the ongoing quiet bilateral contacts between the UAE and Iran regarding Abu-Musa island, the Iranians early this month lifted security measures around the island and allowed UAE and other teachers and workers to return to their work, and classes have been regular. The al-Shariqah police chief has also inspected the security situation on the island, which is now normal and back to what it was before the dispute over the Iranian measures imposed on the island in March. That is a positive sign promising a resumption of the efforts and contacts to reach agreement on the procedure for negotiations to solve the problem of the three islands.

The sources said that "any positive Iranian step related to the cancellation of measures taken by Iran in Abu-Musa and termination of its occupation of Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra would result in relaxation and promote trust in pursuit of a regional security understanding between the GCC states and Iran."

It has been learned that the GCC supports the bilateral contacts and consultations between the UAE and Iran and is in favor of "keeping the problem within the context of bilateral consultations," and also supports all peaceful means and measures.

Observers believe that the current quiet contacts between the embassies and foreign ministries of the two countries, although slow, will help defuse the tension between them over the islands.

The sources say that the Iranians have welcomed the bilateral contacts and reaffirmed their good intentions as far as the establishment of cordial relations with the GCC states are concerned. The GCC states want tangible results through Iranian confidence-building measures and an Iranian commitment to good-neighborly relations and peaceful coexistence with the states of the region.

The Iranians say that they are still awaiting the materialization of a visit to Tehran by a UAE delegation. Meetings between delegations from the two countries were suspended in Abu-Dhabi last year when the dispute over Abu-Musa island intensified.

Kuwait

Ministry Explains al-Baghli Remarks on Oil Output

LD2104195793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Apr (KUNA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Petroleum denied remarks attributed to Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli that Kuwait will produce 2 million barrels of oil a day starting on 1 July.

The source, in a statement to KUNA, clarified that the statement which MENA attributed to Minister al-Baghli on the issue caused confusion which led to a misunderstanding among many news agencies and newspapers.

What is correct is that Kuwait has actually had this production capability since last February, but Kuwait's production capability differs from its set quota, according to the OPEC agreement to which Kuwait is committed.

The source said Minister al-Baghli had earlier announced that Kuwait would demand an increase of its quota to not less than 2 million barrels a day. [passage omitted]

Austrian President Reiterates Support

LD2204222493 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Austrian President Thomas Klestil has announced that he has entrusted Habib Jawar Hayat, communications minister and minister of state for housing affairs, with a message for the amir of Kuwait in reply to his higness' message, also delivered by Mr. Hayat yesterday.

The Austrian president reiterated once again his country's support for Kuwait and for its just causes. In a statement to KUNA, he said that his country will endeavour to solve the question of Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages detained in the jails and detentions centers of the Iraqi regime. He stressed that Austria has issued instructions to all its ambassadors and competent representatives at international organizations to work for and contribute toward a solution to the tragedy of prisoners and to reveal the fate of the missing in Iraq.

The president reiterated his country's determination not to normalize relations with the Iraqi regime so long as the latter did not submit to UN Security Council resolutions on the war to liberate Kuwait. He stressed that his country upholds the need to implement those resolutions and to continue political and diplomatic action to that effect, and stressed that there are great opportunities and possibilities for extending cooperation relations between his own country and the State of Kuwait.

The president pointed out that his talks with the communications minister, which were attended by the Austrian transport minister, dealt with a series of investment projects by the two sides. He stressed the importance of fruitful cooperation between the two friendly countries in the commercial and industrial sectors.

Oman

Deputy Premier Receives South African Minister

JN2104160893 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, received in his office at noon today South African Foreign Minister Roelof F. Botha, who is currently on a visit to the sultanate. The officials discussed cooperation between the two friendly countries and matters of mutual concern. The guest said he was glad to be visiting the sultanate and lauded the comprehensive renaissance the sultanate has achieved thanks to the enlightened and astute leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and his government.

A round of official talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning chaired by His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Taymur, Foreign Ministry undersecretary for political affairs, and Foreign Minister Botha. They discussed internal South African developments and pan-African affairs, as well as bilateral ties, including trade and technical cooperation in the areas of transport and air freight. They agreed to step up cooperation in the mutual interest of both countries.

Qatar

Amir Receives South African Foreign Minister

JN2204131493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 22 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, today received South African Foreign Minister Roelof F. Botha.

The Qatari news agency said that during the meeting, Mr. Botha explained the domestic situation in his country and the new political trends there now after the complete abandonment of the apartheid policy and now that South Africa is seeking openness and an improvement of relations with various countries, including Arab countries.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed establishing cooperation in many fields.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Defense Minister Visits Jubayl Naval Facilities

LD2004201493 Riyadh SPA in English 1958 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Jubayl, April 20, SPA—Egyptian Defence Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi on Tuesday [20 April] visited the eastern fleet at Jubayl city. He was received by the fleet commander who briefed him on the missions and duties of the eastern fleet. Later in the day General Tantawi visited the Naval Supply Center and toured its sections. He also visited the command, control and communication center, the computer center and attended a luncheon given by the fleet commander. At the end of the luncheon the two sides exchanged souvenirs.

Concludes Visit

LD2204192393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1752 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 22 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, defense minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, left Jeddah this afternoon after an official visit to the Kingdom that lasted several days. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Defense Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD2204192093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, the Tunisian minister of national defense, arrived in Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Deputy Commander of Saudi National Guard Arrives

LD2204200293 Riyadh SPA in English 1926 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 22, SPA—Deputy Commander of the National Guard Prince Badr Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz arrived here on Thursday [22 April] for a visit to the United Arab Emirates. He is accompanied by Prince Khalid Bin-Bandar Bin-Mohammad and Prince Fahd Bin-Badr Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

He was received by Shaykh Sa'id Bin-Zayid al Nuhayyan, the chairman of the ports authority and member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council, and the Saudi Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Salih al-Ghufayli.

Second Military Detachment Leaves for Somalia

JN2004150993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Apr (WAKH)—A second detachment from the Emirian Armed Forces left Abu Dhabi for Somalia today to participate in Operation Restore Hope aiding the Somali people.

In a statement, the commander of the new force said that his contingent will complete the humanitarian mission of the previous force for the sons of Somalia.

He added that the force would participate, along with other UN forces, in efforts to secure the arrival of humanitarian aid to the Somali people and to help end their suffering.

Yemen

Premier Confident Elections Will Not Be Disrupted

PM2104121093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

['Abdallah Hammudah report: "Al-'Attas Denies Attempt to Abort Yemeni Elections"]

[Text] Sanaa—Yemeni Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has denied "the existence of any indications so far of any practices harmful to the election process in Yemen." He emphasized that "all preparations have been made in a good and quiet manner, and the vast number of candidates—exceeding 4,300—had not been expected. Despite the discussions and the arguments, everything is proceeding normally and so is the competition." He added: "I rule out the possibility of any action harmful to democracy in the Yemeni Republic because it is coming through the historic turning points with a high degree of responsibility."

Al-'Attas was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at his home in Sanaa and was responding to the opposition's fear that the elections might be aborted at the last moment if the Yemeni leadership became certain that the ruling parties would not win the elections. The Yemeni prime minister is a candidate in constituency number 161 in Dughan Directorate in Hadramaut Governorate, where there are three other candidates competing for 4,304 votes.

The opposition claims that the phenomenon of the large number of independent candidates, reaching 3.7 times the number of the partisan candidates, is a ploy used by the ruling parties to fragment the votes and undermine the opposition's chances of winning, but al-'Attas explains it as "a phenomenon of the first real democratic elections in Yemen." He adds that it is natural that "there would be anxiety and fear, but the anxiety and fear are mitigated by a sense of responsibility." He said that, in his view, the nomination of independent candidates "is one of the parties' methods of protecting themselves by democratic means."

He pointed out that "the nomination of independent candidates reflected two things. The first is the public's desire to test the intentions of the leaders, unlike the case in the past when the nominations were dictated from above. They now represent the will of the candidates, marking the beginning of real democratic practice. The second is that numerous parties use the nomination process as a way of protecting their candidates by putting forward a number of independent candidates, most of whom are actually partisans, with the best candidate in the constituency running for election in the name of the party."

He added that "a party is only allowed one candidate. Yesterday was the deadline for that. Many independent candidates backed by political parties have now withdrawn. So, democracy begins from the point of nonobjection to people's nomination."

All the Yemeni parties have agreed on the principle of free and honest elections and have agreed to accept the election results as the basis for power, but there are still some question marks regarding a "catastrophe scenario" if some parties do not accept the election results, with the armed forces still not united.

I asked al-'Attas: "Has everyone learned the lesson of 13 January 1986 (bloody clashes) sufficiently to ensure that there will be no repetition?"

He replied: "Whatever the results of the elections, everyone is well prepared. They have immunized themselves, having engaged in many arguments and actions leading to the conclusion that they must accept the results, whatever they are. Once again, I emphasize that there is no indication of any moves to abort the elections, refuse to accept the results, or disrupt the democratic process in Yemen."

He added: "Everyone is willing to accept the results of the first constituent democratic elections. Everyone believes that any action to undermine that process would be very detrimental to Yemen and should be prevented."

Socialist Party Accuses Jihad of Terrorist Involvement

PM2204092093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "Yemeni Socialist Party: '"Afghans' Leadership Running Terrorism in Arab World"']

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—A week before the parliamentary elections the Yemeni Presidential Council has urged citizens to elect competent candidates, stressing the importance of pooling efforts for the sake of fair competition "away from deception, insults, and defamation."

It also emphasized its eagerness to conduct the elections in a sound and impartial atmosphere.

Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Socialist Party, has launched an attack on the "Jihad" organization in what is regarded as the beginning of a campaign against the Islamic groups entering the elections. He emphasized that investigations with this organization "have revealed some serious indications about the role being played by those returning from Peshawar" or so-called "Yemen's Afghans." He spoke about the uncovering of some joint files "which link the bloody terrorist actions witnessed in Egypt, other Arab states, and Yemen." [passage omitted]

In Aden Salim Salih Muhammad pointed out that the security investigations conducted with "Jihad" organization elements in Yemen on charges of carrying out terrorist actions, including bombing tourist installations in Aden at the end of last December, have revealed this organization's link with the assassinations, explosions, and terrorist actions which the country witnessed.

In a statement to the party's information center in Aden the day before yesterday, he emphasized that "these investigations have also revealed some serious indications (...) about the role being played by those returning from Peshawar and Afghanistan. They have also revealed the locations of the camps sheltering them and providing them with arms and training." In the first statement by a senior Socialist Party official about the "Jihad" organization in Yemen Mr. Salim said that "what is more serious is the role of the leading center (...) which is coordinating, planning, and financing the activities of terrorist movements in the Arab world and organizing land and sea routes to smuggle arms to Egypt, Yemen, and the Arab northern African states (...). The Socialist Party is following with utmost interest the terrorist onslaught being launched by extremist fundamentalist groups, especially after the uncovering of some joint files (...) which link the bloody terrorist actions witnessed by Egypt, other Arab states, and Yemen, aimed at suppressing the opposing opinion and aborting the democratic march based on party and political pluralism (...)"

Meanwhile, some political circles in Aden told AL-HAYAH: "The Socialist Party assistant secretary general's public statement about the 'Jihad' organization at this time and while parties are preparing to enter the parliamentary elections could be the beginning of a campaign the Socialists intend to launch against the Islamic groups which announced their participation in the elections"—a reference to the Yemeni Reform Grouping led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. They added: "That statement proves that the Socialist Party fears competing with the Reform in the elections, especially as early indications point to the Reform's popularity in a large number of constituencies."

Socialist Party Members Withdraw Independent Candidacies

PM2004153893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Iqbal 'Abdallah report: "Yemeni Socialist Party Withdraws Its Leaders Nominated as 'Independents'"]

[Excerpt] Aden—A number of Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] members who decided to enter the parliamentary elections as independents have withdrawn their nominations in compliance with a decision from the party's Political Bureau, who urged them to pull out to support its candidates.

Well-informed Yemeni sources have pointed out that the bureau made its decision after a large number of party leaders nominated themselves as independents in constituencies which the YSP expects its candidates to win. The sources added that the decision also included an indication that party penalties could be imposed on members who do not comply.

Other sources in Aden pointed to the existence of coordination between the power partners, the General People's Congress and the YSP, to ensure their winning the largest possible number of seats in parliament in preparation for the next government being formed by one of them. Available information suggests that this government will be assigned to Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, current speaker of the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, journalists and workers of the government-controlled 14 UCTUBAR newspaper in Aden have continued their sit-in inside the newspaper's buildings after they staged a strike and stopped publishing the newspaper from last Monday in protest at not receiving their payments since January. [passage omitted]

Large Number Quit Socialist Party in al-Lihyah

PM2204133793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

['Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "Yemen: Resignations from Socialist Party in al-Hudaydah"]

[Excerpts] Aden—Reliable reports from the Yemeni al-Hudaydah Governorate have said that "a large number of members of the Socialist Party (one of the two ruling parties) have submitted their resignation from the party in the al-Lihyah directorate."

They pointed out that "these collective resignations came as an expression of these members' discontent and rejection of dictatorial practices and violations." They are also the result of the way the party's funds have been used and distributed as donations to guarantee its candidates' victory in constituency 189 in the directorate.

where the party is facing strong competition from the candidates of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the most distinguished Islamic opposition party.

AL-HAYAH learned from well-informed sources in Aden yesterday that "the resignations of Socialist Party members in al-Hudaydah came in a letter which was handed to the party's leadership by 'Abd-al-Bari Tahir, member of the party's Central Committee and former chief editor of the party's newspaper." It states, in part: "In view of the haphazardness in party action, the disregard for the party's secretarial elements and organization in the directorate, and domination and dictatorship in party action, we submit our final and irrevocable resignations from all basic organizations" The letter contained the names of 23 resigning leading members. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, independent candidates in the governorate emphasized to AL-HAYAH yesterday that "they received invitations from leading elements in the Socialist Party's organization in Aden to withdraw their nominations in favor of its candidates in return for sums estimated at 20,000 riyals for each withdrawal." They emphasized that they "rejected these invitations and stressed their intention to compete honorably." [passage omitted]

Oil Exploration Agreement Signed With U.S. Firm

JN2004154293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday, a memorandum of understanding was signed at the Oil Exploration and Production Organization between the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, on the one hand, and the Bin-Khalifah Consortium and the American firm of U.S. International Petroleum Limited. The memorandum of understanding provides for conducting oil explorations in the sector of Mu'il, bloc 37, in al-Mahrah Governorate.

The consortium as well as the U.S. firm will conduct exploratory work in an area measuring 6,666 square km. They will also conduct geophysical surveys and dig four exploratory wells during the initial phase of operations, and dig three additional exploratory wells during the second phase, all at a cost of $43 million.

The memorandum of understanding was signed for the ministry by Engineer Mubarak 'Umar Ba-Mahmud, director of the organization. For the Bin-Khalifah Consortium, the memorandum was signed by brother Jalil Ibrahim al-Rikabi, deputy chairman of the consortium's board of directors. For U.S. International Petroleum Limited, the memorandum was signed by (John Carre), head of the corporation.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Facilities for U.S. Planes Protested

JN2204123893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League against the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers' continued provision of facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft which violate Iraqi airspace after taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Iraq said that this constitues a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League said that these planes, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, carried out 191 hostile sorties during the first three days of the current week.

Iraq's permanent represenative asked the Arab League secretary general to brief the Arab League member states on these regrettable facts which were accompanied by a list detailing these violations.

Iranian Charge Summoned Over Artillery Shelling

JN2204192393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1806 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Apr (INA)—The Foreign Ministry today summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad and informed him of the Iraqi Government's strong protest over the Iranian artillery shelling of some civilian areas inside Iraqi territory in northern Iraq on 19 April and following day.

INA has learned that a number of innocent citizens have been martyred and some others wounded as a result of the shelling, which is considered a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and national soil and a breach of UN Security Council Resolution 598. Besides, this shelling constitutes flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry also informed the Iranian charge d'affaires that Iraq reserves its full right to respond to these operations and to compensation. It also reserves the right to respond in any adequate way to maintain its rights and legitimate interests.

A military source in Baghdad indicated today that since 19 April, Iranian artillery has been intermittently shelling the Qal'at Dizah basin and the Pishtashan and Qirnago areas. This shelling resulted in the martyrdom and injury of several Kurdish families and the displacement of of over 3,000 men, women, and children who fled this Iranian shelling. Meanwhile, the so-called international relief committees and the U.S. coalition troops have not paid any attention to these aggresive acts. For their part, elements of the agent Kurdish parties have not moved to rescue or help the Kurdish families.

The Iranian charge d'affaires received the Iraqi Government's protest to communicate it to his government.

Regime Troops Attack Village in Marshlands

NC2204152193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that the forces of the ostracized dictator have completed their reinforcements in the southern marshlands in preparation for launching a large-scale attack on the marshes. The sources referred to the lightning attack carried out by one of the regime's forces on (Umm al-Butush) in al- Basrah Governorate's Qurnah District. The same sources added that the ostracized regime's armored forces opened intensive direct fire on citizens' homes, disregarding the presence of children, women, and elderly. The sources confirmed that following the shelling, the ostracized dictator's troops stormed the village, knocked down the remaining houses, detained 25 villagers, and plundered the people's property. The sources added that scores of (Umm al-Butush) residents were killed or wounded as a result of the attack and that the bodies were strewn throughout the village's alleys.

Defense Minister Meets ICRC Official

JN2204153093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, met here today with Michel Canto, director of Middle East and North Africa Operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

The fighter defense minister asserted that Iraq's cooperation with the ICRC stems from Iraq's humanitarian approach toward the question of prisoners and out of its respect for international law and the Geneva Conventions in this regard. Iraq also seeks to enable the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian, noble mission, he said.

The defense minister added: The Red Cross Mission in Iraq has attested to this concrete, fruitful cooperation. He said there were no Iranian or Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, saying this was in line with Iraq's desire to end the problem of prisoners and the suffering of their families.

The fighter defense minister noted that Iran continues to hold thousands of Iraqi prisoners and does not respect international law. Iran has also not been cooperating seriously with the ICRC to end this longstanding problem, he said. He affirmed that Iran's conduct conflicts with Islamic teachings and humanitarian principles.

Canto praised Iraq's cooperation with the head and members of the Red Cross Mission in Iraq and the facilities given to them to carry out their humanitarian duties.

The ICRC official dismissed claims propagated by the media of the Western coalition, as well as distorted facts, regarding Iraq's actual response to the question of

POW's, noting Iraq's cooperation with the Red Cross Mission in Iraq and the ICRC delegations which visit Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Allen Shilliman [name as received], head of the ICRC Mission in Baghdad.

Assembly Speaker Returns From IPU Meeting

JN2104143093 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 21, INA—Speaker of the National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih returned home after taking part in the 89th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) concluded in New Delhi recently.

Mr. Salih told INA that the Iraqi parliamentary delegation had put forward a number of topics pertaining to the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq since August 1990 and effects of the chemical arms used by the U.S. and its allies against it in addition to the rise of mortality rate.

Assassination Attempt on al-Basrah Governor Reported

NC2204182993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Dictator Saddam Husayn's authorities have taken stringent security measures in al-Basrah Governorate, which has witnessed an assassination attempt against its governor as well as a number of operations carried out by the popular resistance. The operations resulted in property damage and casualties among the regime's troops and its security and partisan agencies.

According to Iraqi opposition sources, the ostracized regime is currently taking precautionary measures, such as the deployment of security vehicles backed by tanks on main roads linking cities and villages in the southern governorates, particularly in the marshes. The sources emphasized that fresh reinforcements are being sent regularly to beef up the forces stationed around the southern marshes. Units from the dictator's Republican Guards, which underwent special training at camps outside Baghdad, have taken up key positions near the marshes and around the oil fields of al- Rumaylah, in al-Basrah, as well as in the Bazirkan field in al- 'Amarah.

Reports from northern Iraq indicate that Mosul Governorate and its surrounding districts are experiencing tension and chaos as a result of the harsh security measures undertaken by the regime's repressive agencies against citizens in general. The reports note that scores of officers from Mosul and its suburbs were arrested early this month for alleged opposition to the regime and their attempt to set up military organizations opposed to the ruling regime. It is worth noting that the majority of Iraqi Army officers are angry with dictator Saddam Husayn for granting the highest military ranks to members of his family and his relatives and putting them in command of the Iraqi Army, even though they lack any military qualifications.

Assassination Attempt Against Minister Alleged

93P50158 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi and Zuhayr Qusaybati]

[Text] London—Informed Iraqi sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that Iraqi Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, who is Saddam Husayn's half-brother, was the target of an assassination attempt. Iraqis reaching Amman early yesterday reported that as a result, Iraqi authorities have begun a comprehensive campaign of "widespread repression amidst intense security measures." They added that security forces continue to surround some neighborhoods in Baghdad, including al-Thawrah (Saddam City), al-Shu'lih, al-Kazimiyah, al-A'zamiyah, and al-Baya'.

The opposition Iraqi National Congress cited unconfirmed reports that Watban "has been transferred to a hospital in Amman for treatment."

Furthermore, they explained that "the campaign is especially targeted at the Islamists, both Sunni and Shiite, and any bearded person."

It is not unlikely that elements within the regime and in Saddam's family were behind the assassination attempt against Watban. It appears that the Islamists are being used as scapegoats to cover up clashes among the members of the ruling family.

It is said that there is hostility between Barzan Tikriti, special political adviser to Saddam and the official in charge of foreign policy, and his cousin, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the defense minister. Informed observers of Tikriti family affairs expect difficulties to break out in family ranks because of Barzan's return from Geneva, where he worked as chief of the Iraqi delegation to the human rights commission. It is rumored that in Geneva, he administered a wide-ranging secret network of financial investments for the Iraqi president, investments estimated by some to amount to $30 billion in value. For a number of years before he went to Geneva, he headed the security organ responsible for foreign operations and played a major role in building the security structures under Saddam's supervision.

It is known that there is a serious conflict between the al-Hasan and al-Majid wings of the Tikriti family and that "an explosion between them has been delayed by Saddam," who together with his half-brothers Barzan, Watban, and Sab'awi, the chief of the general security organization, belong to the al-Hasan wing. Saddam's cousins Husayn Kamil (Saddam's adviser on oil and military industry), 'Ali (defense minister), and his brother 'Abd Hasan al-Majid, who is the deputy chief of security (the organ in charge of foreign security), belong to the al-Majid wing.

Well-informed Iraqi sources report that Husayn Kamil "is the top suspect in the assassination attempt against Watban."

They explain that Watban, Sab'awi, and Arshad Yasin (chief of Saddam's personal guard) "are in harmony and agreement, but they have the least affinity for Husayn Kamil, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and 'Udayy," Saddam's son.

They point out that 'Ali Hasan and Husayn Kamil are, respectively, the second- and third-ranking members of the government, followed by Sab'awi, Watban, and Barzan. Qusayy Saddam Husayn (27 years old), the chief of the special security organization, is a candidate to occupy an important position in the government and perhaps to succeed his father, despite the fact that he is younger than 'Udayy. Qusayy "is equipped with qualities that make him suited for ruling unlike his brother who became less suited to rule after he was induced by his mother, Sajjadah Khayrallahk Talfah, to kill Kamil Hanna, his father's personal attendant."

It is not unlikely that "the conflicts will intensify as the economic crisis worsens and as conditions deteriorate further in Baghdad and basic goods run out in the markets."

On the other hand, a Western journalist from REUTERS reported yesterday, Thursday, that he had seen no signs of commotion in a tour of al-Thawrah (Saddam City) and that on the day before that, Wednesday, television programing had been normal, and there were no troops in the area.

Western diplomats who watch the situation in Iraq from Jordan, as well as Iraqis who travel to Baghdad and Jordanian officials, point out that they have not noticed any signs that could indicate large troop movements and widespread trouble.

An important Arab personality, who was among travelers from Amman to Baghdad this the past Tuesday and Wednesday, mentioned that Iraqi Interior Minister Watban al-Hasan appeared on a television program in Baghdad three days ago and participated in a ministerial meeting the same day.

Al-Juburi on 1991 Coup Attempt Against Saddam

PM2204154493 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 19 Apr 93 pp34-36

[Interview with Dr. Husayn Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Juburi, former Mosul University professor who participated in 1991 coup attempt against Saddam Husayn and left Iraq in 1992, by Zaki Shihab in London "days ago"]

[Text] [Shihab] You participated in the 28 August 1991 coup attempt against Saddam Husayn. That attempt failed and a number of Iraqi officers and other military personnel and civilians were arrested and executed. What part did you play in the attempt?

[Al-Juburi] I was chosen from among my colleagues to be in charge of the coordination process in that coup attempt because I was a civilian and had more freedom of movement and contact with others than the military. In the period preceding the discovery of the attempt, we moved extensively to gain the support of influential figures in the Iraqi military establishment, especially in the Republican Guard, the effective military brigades, and Saddam Husayn's accompaniment [control] organ. We also intensified our contacts with influential figures in all sectors of Iraqi society to avoid the regime's mistake of discrimination between Arabs and Kurds and Sunnis and Shiites. We succeeded in gaining the support of large numbers of Iraqis, from al-Basrah in the south to Kurdistan in the north. The implementation of the plan for the overthrow of the regime depended mainly on the efforts of the military. My part was mainly one of contact and coordination.

[Shihab] What stage had the attempt reached when it was discovered?

[Al-Juburi] It was in the final stage. After the war and withdrawal from Kuwait, Iraq was in an unenviable position particularly as regards the country's infrastructure. We tried to concentrate on the important task of keeping Iraq united as a country. That is why, in our coup plan, we avoided any step that would promote partition. The plan was coordinated and opened the way for the participation of various influential Iraqi figures who worked for what they believed was important—to preserve Iraq as a unified state with its present borders.

[Shihab] What were the details of the plan or the coup attempt to destroy Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Juburi] We drew up a plan of action which took all possibilities into consideration. The main specific task of our military colleagues was to find out the meeting place of the Iraqi leadership under Saddam Husayn. That was no easy task because of the known misleading tactics and the fact that only the Iraqi president and just a handful of others had that information, but we managed to pinpoint the place where meetings were held from time to time. We were surprised that the location was not surrounded by any security manifestations on the outside. One idea was to assassinate Saddam Husayn. Some brothers were of the opinion that he should be arrested alive so that he would stand trial as a lesson for future generations.

[Shihab] How did the regime's authorities discover the plan?

[Al-Juburi] On 26 August 1991 I went to Baghdad on a mission, to contact the brothers taking part in the operation. I returned to my home in al-'Alam quarter near Tikrit on the 27th. I spent the night there. There was unusual activity outside the house the following morning. The brothers, sisters, and wives of a number of officers whom I knew came to our house anxiously inquiring about the fate of their husbands and brothers who were arrested during the night. I was one of several people who were asked about them, because the families

knew that I was in contact with their people. After a moment's thought I concluded that my turn would come and I wondered why they had not arrested me yet. I started preparing answers that suited me but in the end I decided to leave the area for my residence in Mosul, suspecting that the [coup] attempt might have been uncovered. Before doing that, I went to Tikrit to inquire from some of my acquaintances about what had happened. Not receiving any convincing answer, I proceeded to Mosul where I lived in the university compound as a Mosul University professor.

[Shihab] Who carried out the arrests in al-'Alam quarter before you left the area?

[Al-Juburi] Units of the special security organ attached to the presidential palace. That is the main security organ in charge of protecting President Saddam Husayn.

[Shihab] What did you notice when you arrived at your residence in Mosul?

[Al-Juburi] As I approached my living quarters inside the university campus, I noticed some unusual activity. What shocked me was that my residence was surrounded. I realized then that there was no time to lose and that I had to leave the area. My knowledge of the situation, the border, and inspection points helped me find the roads with the least inspection points. That meant going to the area of Makhmur. I took refuge in a hut for four days with my little child. Then my host helped me travel to Irbil and from there I went to the office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

[Shihab] Who were the most prominent military and civilian figures arrested?

[Al-Juburi] Physician Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ali Salih, Staff Colonel Damin 'Ulaywi al-Juburi, Air Colonel Amin Mahdi who had been awarded the al-Qadisiyah medal, Shaykh Rukan Jasim, Colonel Muzahim Salih, Lieutenant Colonel 'Isa Jasim, and Captain Mahmud Sharif. There are others whom I cannot name because it is not certain that they have been discovered or charged, but there were scores of them.

[Shihab] How much support and sympathy did you have within the Republican Guard and the Iraqi president's special security organ?

[Al-Juburi] It is too early to talk about that. It would be wrong to discuss issues which might result in loss of life for some people and their families. There was enormous indignation and anger at the regime and the way Saddam was running the government but it was very difficult to contact individuals, particularly influential military figures, because it was not difficult [for the regime] to detect contacts or activities carried out against the regime because Saddam's security organs had infiltrated all sectors of the military establishment. There is nothing new in saying that the way the military establishment and military units are managed is not the customary military way. A junior officer working for the security organs can prevent the implementation of a decision made by a brigade commander if that junior officer is not sure in what direction the brigade would move and not sure about the objectives of its military units. So, I will not go so far as to say that our activities were carried out as activities of an organization, because expanding our circle, in the current Iraqi circumstances, would have meant making it easy for the security organs to infiltrate our ranks and uncover our activities. That is not to say that our number was small.

[Shihab] Why have you and others failed in your attempts to remove Saddam Husayn from power?

[Al-Juburi] There were external circumstances beyond the control of the Iraqis. All the attempts to overthrow the regime failed because every coup attempt needed foreign support which was not available. The failure of the recent attempts to overthrow the regime was due to the meticulous organization of the security organs built by Saddam Husayn. I am not saying that overthrowing the regime is very difficult but it is not easy. Saddam Husayn has exploited sectarian and ethnic divisions, pitting Arabs against Kurds. He created the impression that the opposition abroad supported the invasion of Iraq and the continuation of the blockade and sanctions against it.

[Shihab] Was there any connection between your coup attempt in August 1991 and Captain Sattam Ghannam al-Juburi's attempt on 6 January 1990?

[Al-Juburi] Captain Sattam Ghannam al-Juburi was executed after the occupation of Kuwait in August 1990, and after his coup attempt on 6 January 1990 failed. Shaykh Mash'an al-Juburi, one of Sattam's partners in the attempt, left the country for a neighboring state. The aim was to assassinate Saddam at a military parade in Baghdad but the plan was uncovered very shortly before implementation. As a result, 23 military and civilian people were executed in just one area.

[Shihab] Who were the most prominent people executed with Sattam Ghannam al-Juburi?

[Al-Juburi] Captain Mudahhi 'Ali Husayn, Salih Jasim, Hayshal Shahib, Khayri Muhammad, 'Abd-al-Rahim Jum'ah, Afandi Talab, and Muhammad Mahjub.

[Shihab] Were you in contact with Sattam before his failed attempt?

[Al-Juburi] Yes.

[Shihab] How closely were you related to him?

[Al-Juburi] Sattam was a member of my tribe but he was from the Ninawa Governorate while I am from the Salah al-Din Governorate. In the final analysis we are all Iraqis.

[Shihab] How was Sattam al-Juburi arrested?

[Al-Juburi] On the very day he was trying to carrying out the operation which was foiled, in the military parade grounds.

[Shihab] What explanation was your family given when your brother Major Afham Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Juburi's dead body was returned to it, and what was his job at the presidential palace?

[Al-Juburi] My brother Maj. Afham 'Abdallah was in charge of the warning and control force at the presidential palace. After a period of time in that post, he was assigned to guard Husayn Kamil, Saddam Husayn's brother-in-law, and he had some duties in Karabala' on 6 March 1990. My brother was killed in mysterious circumstances and was treated by the regime as a martyr. Husayn Kamil asked the unit which used to be under my brother's command to wreak vengeance for him on those who rose against the regime. That is what made me doubt their explanation, particularly as my brother often expressed dissatisfaction with what was going on and requested that an end be put to it. Anyone who knows the regime and its security organs would know what would happen to anyone who did such a thing. After the discovery of our plan to overthrow the Baghdad regime in the summer of 1991, we took refuge in northern Iraq. The regime's authorities tried to pursue us. It is no secret that the Baghdad regime has collaborators. One of them, while we were his guests, put some poisonous thalium in tea which he gave me and a colleague of mine. Shortly afterwards, on arrival at the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan headquarters, I felt dizzy and had stomach pains. I realized that I had been poisoned. I had told my host, whose identity I do not wish to reveal, that the tea tasted strange. So he changed the tea cup after apologizing and claiming that his wife had put salt instead of sugar in it, and he gave me another cup of tea. I was taken to a hospital in Shaqlawah but my health deteriorated and I had to be moved to a hospital in Irbil. The doctors began treating me for lung and liver inflamation until my hair began to fall out. When I faced the doctors they admitted that I had poisoning symptoms.

[Shihab] Is it true that you told someone that Qusayy Saddam Husayn was behind your attempted poisoning?

[Al-Juburi] Security officials of the Kurdistan Front told me that.

[Shihab] What happened then?

[Al-Juburi] I was moved to Damascus where I was treated at al-Asad University Hospital before I was transferred to the thalium treatment unit at London's Guy's Hospital where I was treated for what people in London called the Iraqi poison, because Saddam Husayn's regime was famous for its use of thalium.

[Shihab] How many attempts were there to overthrow the government or assassinate Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Juburi] There were many attempts in the past but only two were reported in the media. The first was in 1973 and it was carried out by Director of Public Security Nazim Kazzar. 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Samarra'i was a victim of that attempt, which was discovered shortly before implementation. The second was in 1979. Some ministers and members of the higher command in Baghdad were executed. There were unreported attempts such as the one carried out in 1975 by Shaykh Shukhayt 'Ali al-Danah al-Juburi from southern Iraq. He and a group of military people and civilians were later executed. Mahir Talab Salih made an abortive attempt in 1982 and he and six of his brothers were executed. Mahir was a presidential aide at the time. In 1988, 'Ayyash Muhammad Thabit, who was an inspection engineer, made an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Saddam. He tried to sabotage the Iraqi president's private helicopter but this was discovered shortly before it took off and he was arrested and executed.

[Shihab] In a speech to the U.S. Congress in 1991, former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker referred to a failed coup attempt in Iraq. Was that the one which you were behind or partly planned?

[Al-Juburi] I do not know where James Baker got his information at the time but I emphasize that neither the United States nor any other state had anything to do with our activities. The best proof of that is that no foreign party paid any attention to us or gave aid in support of our activities in Iraq. There will be many attempts to overthrow the regime. The latest attempt discovered resulted in the arrest of Brigadier General Muhammad Bilal al-Juburi and Shaykh Rikab Damin al-Juburi in June 1992. Regrettably I have no details about that attempt.

[Shihab] What effect has the discovery of your coup attempt had on those who were involved in it or who supported it and were not themselves uncovered?

[Al-Juburi] Officials of the special security organ asked all the members who hailed from al-Jubur tribes and who knew me to identify themselves. I am not exaggerating when I say that thousands came forward. When the officials realized the number of people who knew me, they asked a limited number who had close links with me to submit their resignations after explaining how well they knew me. As I said, some people were arrested and their fate is not known to this day.

[Shihab] How did they know about you?

[Al-Juburi] I come from a well-known family. My brother Maj. Afham was well liked and I mixed with many people in my work and contacts and through my relations and friends.

[Shihab] Have you ever met Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Juburi] Yes, but that was during general visits he made.

[Shihab] What role did your tribe play in covering up your activities?

[Al-Juburi] I do not wish to approach matters from a tribal or sectarian angle. As a university professor I have my contacts and friendships with Iraqis of all trends. I do not want mentioned next to my name that I have a tribal approach.

[Shihab] Although you left Iraq some time ago, do you believe that you still have roots in the military establishment?

[Al-Juburi] By comparison with others in the Iraqi opposition, I can say yes. I was the latest among them to leave my country. I also have my own contacts. The coup attempt in which I was involved still has echoes.

[Shihab] Why have you only appeared lately on the Iraqi political scene?

[Al-Juburi] I was going through unusual circumstances. I was receiving thalium treatment. Now I am playing a part through participation with some opposition brothers in a meeting in London aimed at strengthening the opposition's unity to pave the way for the fulfillment of our objectives of changing the regime and laying the foundations of a democratic regime that would ensure freedom and dignity for the Iraqi people.

'Full Withdrawal' From Golan Heights 'Hinted'

TA2304072193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has hinted that Israel will implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights within the framework of an agreement with Syria. Peres said that the price of peace is set and that it was Menahem Begin who determined the character of peace with Syria in his peace agreement with Egypt. The foreign minister was addressing the Labor Party young guard. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

Shim'on Peres spoke to Labor Party young guard members about the peace process and the closure on the territories. The highlight of his remarks on the political issue lay in a hint that Israel will be willing to forgo the entire Golan Heights in a peace agreement with Syria. It is important to emphasize that Peres did not say this explicitly. Here are the accurate quotes, and it is worthwhile to consider this hint when listening to the following: The conditions in the negotiations are almost clear and fixed. The issue of peace is at present mostly in Israel's hands. The price of peace has been set; the problem relates to the substance of peace. It was Menahem Begin who determined the character of the solution with Syria when he signed the peace agreement with Egypt. This is what Mr. Peres said. To recall, the agreement with Egypt stipulated the return of all of the Sinai to Egypt. Peres did not explicitly mention a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but his remarks speak for themselves.

Referring to the closure, Mr. Peres said that it cannot serve as a long-term solution or as a substitute for negotiations.

Peres also criticized unnamed Israeli leaders. Instead of following the public opinion polls, we should be attentive to what the leaders are saying, so that we can know what they are thinking. Leaders should not act according to considerations of popularity, Peres said. He did not clarify whether he was referring to Binyamin Netanyahu or Yitzhaq Rabin.

Advance Team Leaves for Peace Talks in U.S.

TA2304050593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The ninth round of peace talks will open in Washington in four days. An Israeli preparatory team left Israel last night. The gestures toward the Palestinians will be discussed at the beginning of the talks. Among them will be the return of old-time deportees, family reunification, and the improvement of living conditions in the territories. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Raz] On the eve of the resumption of the talks, there is a consensus on the Israeli side that the talks with the Palestinians are extremely important. At the same time, there are conflicting assessments as to the chances of success. Following discussions held by the prime minister, some officials evince cautious optimism regarding the chances of progress with the Palestinians. Other officials, however, voiced pessimism, saying it is not clear what the Palestinians want. The Palestinians are coming to Washington with a heavy load of bitterness and will raise issues pertaining to the permanent arrangement—a thing that could foil the chances of success.

One of the issues relating to the permanent arrangement and about which—to quote a member of the negotiating team—there is something to talk about is the issue of legislation. To date, Israel has agreed to grant the Palestinians authority in the subsidiary legislation sphere and in determining regulations. Now Israel is willing to grant them authority in the area of primary legislation as well, and this is a clear indication of an entity enjoying broad authorities.

Israeli sources say that the talks with the Palestinians will focus on three main issues: First, elections in the territories; second, the extremely sensitive issue of land rights; third, human rights in the territories—an issue constantly raised by the Palestinians. Israel already agreed to discuss this issue during the previous rounds.

Regarding the gestures, Israel previously implemented a series of gestures in anticipation of the talks. This time Israel links these gestures with the negotiations themselves. During U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visit, Israel already said that there is a linkage between the gestures and the Palestinians' participation in the political negotiations. Yesterday it was indicated that already at the beginning of the talks Israel will agree to discuss the package of gestures. At stake are the return of old-time deportees. Regarding the new deportees, the advisory committees may complete their work whenever required, and they will certainly recommend the return of more deportees in addition to the 101 deportees whom Prime Minister Rabin has already decided to return. Other issues relate to family reunification and the improvement of the living conditions of the Palestinians in the territories, especially in the economic sphere.

Talks Said Behind 'Moderate' Response to Katyushas

TA2204155093 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by David Witzthum—live]

[Excerpt] [Witzthum] The firing of Katyushas used to be regarded as a sort of a red line, and was usually followed by fierce retaliation. What happened this time, Deputy Minister Gur?

[Gur] Katyushas were never a red line. Moreover, we have always objected to the setting of red lines, which

hamper the government's ability to make rational decisions. We have always insisted that we are free to decide in accordance with the prevailing conditions.

This goes for now as well. Katyushas are a most serious weapon in that they are aimed mainly at civilians, families, and homes. They undoubtedly require a reaction, but the government must take a spectrum of factors into consideration. That is the reason why this time, too, we took into consideration both the security needs of the population and the future of the peace talks. There are no red lines; rather, there are sensible considerations.

[Witzthum] There may have been no official definition of red lines, but—judging by the number of shells—the reaction was much was moderate than in the past.

[Gur] It is not my habit to make comparative studies of the numbers of shells fired each time. We have made a clear decision to hurt Hizballah anywhere we can, with whatever weapons we can, with the utmost concentration possible. Often we launch concentrated and diverse air attacks which can hit a variety of targets. Sometimes we use artillery and other troops which I cannot specify here. I can tell you that as far as we are concerned, no one attacking us will escape retaliation.

[Witzthum] Despite what you have just said, do you not agree that the reaction has sent an implicit message that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not go out of its way even if Katyushas fall on our northern towns?

[Gur] What you said about the IDF is true: The IDF will do as told by the government. As I have pointed out, the government is guided by a variety of considerations. These include a desire to attain peace with Lebanon and an ambition to see the peace talks embark on a path of progress at last. At the same time, we are duty-bound to do everything to ensure that the population in the north is safe. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu, Ramon Debate Peace Process

TA2104181493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The Knesset today held a special session during its recess to discuss urgent motions to the agenda on political issues. Other than the regular heckling and an unimpressive demonstration, as our correspondent describes it, by several Golan settlers protesting against the withdrawal, the debate was rather quiet. Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] [passage omitted] In the Knesset debate, the opposition today attacked the government for making gestures and concessions, and the coalition lashed out at the opposition for its inflexibility and lack of willingness to make gestures and concessions for peace.

[Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu] What we have here, Sir—and we will hear about this in a few hours, in the fantastic news that the peace talks are to be resumed—is a down payment which the prime minister has already paid the Arab side for its consent to come to the talks—a great achievement indeed. All the prime minister did was to strike a deal of payment by installments: First we put down the down payment, and after the talks start we will pay the rest; the check has already been deposited in the hands of the Americans. [passage omitted]

[Health Minister Hayim Ramon] In his speech, Knesset Member Netanyahu charged that the government is attempting to make us lose our assets, and I quote. The real disagreement between us, Mr. Netanyahu, is on how to define an asset. I heard your interview on television last week, and realized that your definition of an asset includes the fact that some 120,000 Palestinians from the territories come to work in Israel each morning—some asset! This is why you oppose the closure and believe it is a threat. You believe that annexing 2.5 million Palestinians to Israel will give us an asset. I readily admit that it is just this kind of asset that I want to avoid, and this government wants to get rid of. You believe that Jabalyah is an inseparable part of the State of Israel, and we do not. You believe that the Jabalyah and Balatah refugee camps are an asset, while we regard them as just the opposite. This is the argument between us. [end recording]

Egypt's Al-Baz Arrives, Meets With Officials

Meets Rabin

TA2204121893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Egypt hopes that the various sides to the peace process will achieve real progress during the next round of talks starting on 27 April. This was said by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser, following his meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, which ended approximately half an hour ago. Our correspondent Eldad Beck reports from the Defense Ministry:

[Begin Beck recording] The one-hour-long meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Usamah al-Baz ended about 30 minutes ago. The Egyptian official settled for a short statement to correspondents, both in English and in Arabic.

[Al-Baz remarks in Arabic followed by Beck's translation] Usamah al-Baz expressed the hope that significant progress will be made in the negotiations over the next few weeks. Later he was asked whether President Mubarak requested that Prime Minister Rabin make additional concessions. Al-Baz answered that we are not talking about concessions, rather about negotiations and efforts by all sides to attain an arrangement. [end recording]

Meets Peres, Discusses Closure

TA2204182993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Report on visit by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpts] Usamah al-Baz's visit has generated no sensational news. He came yesterday to discuss a number of issues so as to ensure a smooth opening of the coming round of peace talks. In meetings with the prime minister and the foreign minister, he spoke of a more liberal taxation policy in the territories, addressed the issue of human rights there, and asked that the closure be eased. After his meeting with Foreign Minister Peres, Dr. al-Baz said these matters would contribute to the removal of obstacles.

[Begin al-Baz recording, in English] It's important for us to keep our consultations with the leadership of all parties at this point, to make sure that as negotiations resume, they'll be resumed on the right foot, that the delegations will concentrate on the important issues, on the main issues of contention, with the hope of removing the remaining obstacles on the road to concluding agreement. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Peres said that when the parties report to the negotiations, each side will be able to raise any issue for discussion.

[Begin Peres recording] We did discuss what ought to be done to ensure a proper opening of this round of talks and what ought to be done to save time and to attain more understandings, but all this will happen when the talks resume. [end recording]

In this afternoon's meeting, Peres emphasized the importance of the Washington talks—mainly those with the Palestinians. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

In Cairo tonight, al-Baz will convey Prime Minister Rabin's message of reply to his president.

Finance Minister Sees Long-Term Profit of Closure

TA2204184493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The Finance Ministry is already busy planning Israel's economy in the era of autonomy. The closure on the territories will be beneficial to Israel's economy in the long term, says Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who toured Upper Nazareth today. Our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv reports:

[Begin recording] [Aviv] Several interministerial teams are working in the Finance Ministry on plans for the Palestinian autonomy. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat says that even in the age of autonomy, there will no full separation of the Israeli and Palestinian economies.

[Shohat] There is a special Finance Ministry team, and another team composed of outside advisers, who are working together on solutions to every question that may arise in the future, such as the transfer of goods and manpower, banking, currency, customs, and taxes. These economic systems will not be fully merged, but they will be linked. We are doing all the necessary preparatory work for the use of the peace talks as well as a forecast of the future Israeli economy.

[Aviv] Referring to the closure, the minister says that while the damage it has caused is serious, it is much less formidable than the previously published assessment of a billion shekels. Besides, the minister says, we will end up benefiting from it.

[Shohat] Things should be viewed in the perspective of the future as well. We should realize that in the long run, if we attain a structural change, if more Israeli jobless find employment, we will gain considerably in economic terms, because we will have to pay less unemployment allowances and more Israelis will keep permanent jobs, reducing the pressure on employment offices. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Appeal on Closure Likely To Be Rejected

TA2304100893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Apr 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal, Eytan Rabin, Gay Bekhor, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Last night it was learned that U.S. President Bill Clinton is sending Samuel Lewis, head of the State Department's Political Planning Branch, to Israel. Diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said that the visit is intended to persuade the Israeli Government to lift the closure imposed on the territories. Lewis is due in Israel on 25 April and will meet with Prime Minister Rabin on the same day.

Political sources in Jerusalem have said that Clinton is concerned about the effect of the continuing closure on the peace talks. According to them, after the Palestinians forced the Arab countries to postpone the resumption of the talks, the U.S. Administration wishes to ascertain that the negotiations will open as planned, on 27 April.

Sources affiliated with the prime minister said in response that if this is indeed the purpose of Lewis' visit, Israel will have to politely turn down his request. In the message he sent yesterday to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak—through political aide Usamah al-Baz, who visited Israel yesterday—Prime Minister Rabin also rejected the Egyptian request that the closure be lifted. Al-Baz himself said that Israel's agreement to lift the closure or improve human rights in the territories should not be viewed as a concession to the Palestinians.

It is also believed in Jerusalem that, in addition to his talks on the closure, Lewis will also try to reach an agreement with Israel about a gesture on the issue of the deportees. The aim of these discussions will be the immediate return of at least 150 deportees and the return of the rest by the end of 1993. Israel has already agreed to allow the immediate repatriation of 101 deportees, and sources affiliated with Rabin noted yesterday that in the last meeting Rabin held with Clinton, the U.S. President agreed that there is no room for additional Israeli gestures prior to the resumption of the talks. [passage omitted]

Territories Under 'Total Closure' 23-27 Apr

TA2304043493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] A total closure will be imposed today on the territories in preparation for Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Independence Day, which fall on Sunday and Monday [25 and 26 April]. Palestinians from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will not be allowed to enter Israel from 2 PM [1100 GMT] today until 3 AM on Tuesday. The closure will then revert to its present form, in which a few thousand Palestinians are allowed to enter.

Peres on Self-Rule Authorities, Police Force

TA2304055793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz and Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Text] [Lidar] Good morning to you, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Lidar] We have just heard our political correspondent Shlomo Raz say that there are both pessimists and optimists in the government. To judge by an interview published with you in THE JERUSALEM POST this morning, you are very optimistic. You are even talking about the possibility of an agreement on autonomy already in this round of talks. Is this possible?

[Peres] I am not talking about the possibility of but rather the desire for this. I think we should exert great efforts to reach an agreement during this round, because I do not think that procrastination will help anybody. This time we should do our utmost to reach an agreement on the basic outlines.

[Lidar] What do we have to offer? Today's HADASHOT writes that we are discussing the possibility of establishing a local Palestinian police force even before autonomy is established. You are mentioned as being one of the authors of this plan. Is this report true?

[Peres] If the Palestinians are willing to accept the things we are already offering them now within the framework of autonomy, why not? It is somewhat strange that we are constantly talking about various gestures when in fact we are offering the Palestinians a far-reaching gesture: self-rule, which includes a police force, health, transportation, trade, agriculture, and, in fact, embraces all spheres of life. We keep forgetting that we are making an extremely broad gesture which is comprised of the various gestures that make up self-rule.

[Lidar] So you consider it possible and desirable to set up a several-thousand-strong Palestinian police force, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, even before autonomy is established?

[Peres] Certainly. I think that just as we do not want to see Palestinian workers on our territory, we also are not interested in seeing Jewish policemen on other territories.

[Lidar] Mr. Peres, we have heard that the Palestinians are extremely bitter on the eve of the ninth round of talks. It was even said that this is a make-or-break [last three words in English] situation, that this is the critical round of talks. What gestures can Israel offer now?

[Peres] Let me reiterate the greatest gesture of all: complete self-rule for the Palestinians, except for the security sphere and excluding the Jewish settlements presently located in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We are serious in our intention to implement this. Our government has carried out many gestures, both on the issue of settlements and that of defining the terms of reference, for example with regard to Resolutions 242 and 338. All of these things prove that we are sincerely interested in solving the problem once and for all.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, an issue of great interest is Israel's concessions in the legislative sphere. After all, legislation is one of the most outstanding authorities of an independent entity, of a state. It appears that we are willing to grant the Palestinians rights which go beyond subsidiary legislation and determining regulations.

[Peres] Look, I do not want to put the cart before the horse. There are many possibilities between complete, independent legislation and subsidiary legislation relating to the issues under the jurisdiction of the self-rule entity. This is the reason we conduct negotiations, and we will submit our proposals in the framework of the negotiations, not before.

[Lidar] Mr. Peres, we have heard that Samuel Lewis, director of policy planning at the State Department, will arrive in Israel on 25 April. Is this the meaning of active partner? Will he come to participate in discussions and exert pressure?

[Peres] What pressure can be exerted? After all, Israel is interested in peace.

[Lidar] Pressure to lift the closure.

[Peres] I am not sure that he will come for this purpose. Mr. Lewis, to the best of my knowledge, deals with long-term planning. The closure has nothing to do with long-term planning; it is a reaction to various urgent exigencies relating to the present. I certainly think there should be a profound dialogue with the United States over long-term issues, because most of the real problems we have are regional rather than national problems. We cannot deal with missiles and nonconventional weapons without regional arrangements. We cannot attain a prosperous economy without regional arrangements. The period when issues could be resolved by military force alone, without peace, is over. Today we need political agreements and a comprehensive regional framework for preserving Israel's security. I therefore believe it is good that Mr. Lewis is coming. We will be able to discuss the long-term picture with him.

[Lidar] Will you support the request presented by Usamah al-Baz to ease the closure?

[Peres] The determining factor with regard to the closure is one of security and personal security. We must not forget why the closure was imposed in the first place. Its main purpose was to safeguard the personal security of Israeli citizens. This is our primary consideration.

[Lidar] Mr. Peres, we have heard that the Palestinians—at least PLO officials in Cairo—have started discussing the possibility of Gaza first. Do you think that this is realistic from our point of view? Would you propose such a move?

[Peres] We will hear what they propose, and then we will discuss this.

[Lidar] Maybe we should offer them Gaza first?

[Peres] We are on the eve of new negotiations. Incidentally, I never ruled out the possibility of Gaza first. Even if there is a possibility of Gaza first, it also should come within the framework of an agreement. Today our delegation is on its way to Washington, and next week negotiations over a comprehensive arrangement will commence. We must allow these negotiations to start, and if we can reach a comprehensive agreement, this will be very good indeed. Before the issue of Gaza first, we should see how the more basic and important issues of the negotiations work out.

[Lidar] Thank you very much, Mr. Peres.

Rabin Approves Palestinian Police Prior to Autonomy

TA2304054193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided to allow the Palestinians to set up a strong local police force in the territories before the establishment of autonomy. The police force will apparently operate under the leadership of Faysal al-Husayni.

The decision to set up the police force, which will comprise thousands of Palestinian policemen, was forged over the past few months, following the rise in terror in the territories perpetrated by the Islamic Jihad and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. In consultations led by Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, it was decided that in their discussions, the delegations to the peace talks should focus on the issue of the establishment of the police force and not on autonomy. This decision follows the stand presented by al-Husayni, according to which the issue of the Palestinian police force should top the agenda. Jerusalem believes that setting up the police force would bolster al-Husayni's status.

Al-Husayni wanted the force to include more than 20,000 policemen—more than the Israel Police—but Israel rejected this demand. Apparently, Israel is willing to allow the force to include several thousand men. [passage omitted]

Peres Stand on Palestinian Police Rejected

TA2304112693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Report by Le'a Zinder]

[Text] The opposition parties were quick to blast Foreign Minister Peres' statement that Israel will agree to a Palestinian police force in the territories. Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of the Likud calls the readiness to set up such a police force a deviation, adding that the government is showing inexplicable eagerness to make concessions to the Arabs, beyond what is required.

The Tzomet and Moledet parties have also criticized the government. Tzomet Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Peled says in agreeing to a police force in the territories, Prime Minister Rabin is with his own hands setting up a Palestinian state, and MK Ze'evi, the head of Moledet, says that a terrorist state with an official army is to be set up, whose gangs of terrorists will be called policemen.

NRP [National Religious Party] MK Yitzhaq Levi says the peace negotiations are turning into a caricature. He points to Peres' unqualified promise, made in advance, to set up a Palestinian police force and to accord Palestinians full legislative powers, not to mention Foreign Minister Peres' hints of full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. All of these, says Levi, are a bone stuck in the throat of the peace process and will diminish almost to nothing Israel's ability to negotiate.

Hamas Commander, Fatah Activist Captured

TA2204113393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by Yoram Binur and Aharon Klein]

[Excerpts] The commander of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam gang in Khan Yunus was captured yesterday by a Golani Brigade force. The wanted man, Muhammad Ibrahim Hasan Sanwar, 19, who lived in the refugee camp adjacent to the town, was responsible for Hamas' activities in the area.

Another wanted man, Walid Jawdah 'Abdallah al-Farah, 26, a resident of Khan Yunus and active in the Fatah Hawks, gave himself up to the security forces. A military source said that al-Farah was in poor physical and mental shape after hiding from the Army for a long time. [passage omitted]

At a meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday it was decided to issue after Independence Day [26 April] an additional 8,350 work permits to people from the territories. Military sources said yesterday that since the closure was imposed, 40 fugitives from the Gaza Strip and seven from Judaea and Samaria, have been captured, given themselves up, or fled to Egypt.

Wanted Men Caught; 13 Wounded in Gaza 22 Apr

TA2204165493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Two wanted men belonging to Fatah were caught in Bi'r Zayt this afternoon. The two were wanted almost since the beginning of the intifadah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the fugitives barricaded themselves in a house in the town; IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers used small arms and hand grenades to overcome them. Two local inhabitants who helped the fugitives were also apprehended, one of them the son of Bi'r Zayt's mayor.

The body of a youth murdered as a suspected collaborator was discovered in Gaza today. Gaza residents claim that 13 residents were wounded by soldiers' gunfire during a stone-throwing incident around a new IDF observation post in the al-Shati' refugee camp.

A squad of six juveniles belonging to the Fatah organization were caught in the village of 'Isawiyah in north Jerusalem. The six are suspected of torching cars and of pelting cars with stones and petrol bombs. Two members of this squad last week attacked border policemen with axes and swords. The policemen opened fire and wounded one of them.

'Above-Average' Radiation Levels at Negev Site

TA2304083393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] An inspection carried out by Environment Ministry experts in Hamakhtesh Haqatan this week revealed above-average radiation levels in a few locations on the outskirts of the site; however, this radiation does not pose any health or environment threat. The radiation apparently stems from remains of polluted sewage that was siphoned from the Dimona reactor oxidation pools to Hamakhtesh Haqatan until several months ago.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling notes that this is the first time an inspection was carried out by Environment Ministry experts. The previous inspections were carried out by Israel Atomic Energy Commission and Dimona reactor personnel. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has promised to continue the inspections and to make the results public. He reiterated that Hamakhtesh Haqatan poses no danger whatsoever.

President: Coming Round Possibly 'Last Negotiations'

NC2204172993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stated that the coming round of negotiations will be decisive because it will show Israel's intentions regarding peace in the region, adding that they could be the last negotiations.

Al-Hirawi added that during their last telephone conversation, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad told him that he would attend the negotiations and would continue until the end to expose [Israel's] intentions. Al-Hirawi pointed out that he had proposed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher the establishment of a Lebanese-Israeli security committee under UN supervision, on the basis of the 1949 Truce Agreement, to schedule Israel's withdrawal within a specific timetable. He added: Preventing acts of resistance in the south in the absence of a clear-cut Israeli timetable for withdrawal is an act of treason which I refuse to commit. Al-Hirawi noted that Christopher proposed to him the establishment of a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel. Al- Hirawi replied: We have not yet forgotten the 17 May agreement [signed between Israel and Lebanon in 1983], and Lebanon will be the last to sign the peace agreement.

The president's remarks came during his meeting today with a delegation of graduates from Lebanese University's College of Information headed by Dr. 'Amir Mashmushi. Al-Hirawi noted that the al-Ta'if Accord did not satisfy all the wishes of all parties, because it was a compromise solution, and there is no winner in a compromise. He urged the Lebanese to develop this accord and to do what they deem fit, noting that the Constitution is not God-given and the Chamber of Deputies could amend it. He added: I, alone, cannot return Lebanon to what it used to be; only the will of the Lebanese can find, guarantee, and preserve a solution. [passage omitted]

Delegation to Washington Peace Talks Departs

NC2204193993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Members of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks left Beirut this afternoon for Washington to participate in the ninth round of negotiations, scheduled to begin on 27 April. The delegation comprises Ambassador Samir Mubarak, Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Colonel Shafiq Mahran, and Major Nasif 'Ubayd. Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, who will lead the Lebanese delegation, will join them within the coming two days.

Deportee Spokesman Laments Return to Negotiations

NC2204145293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Report by Suhayl Abu-Fa'ur]

[Text] Deportees spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi held a news conference at their camp this morning, when he saluted the Palestinian People's Party and urged the remaining members of the Palestinian delegation to clearly define their position on the negotiations. He also urged the families of Palestinian delegation members to persuade their sons to change their minds and return to the national rank.

Al-Rantisi said there is nothing new in remarks made by Warren Christopher. The guarantees that were talked about before the announcement to return to the negotiations are nothing but illusion and the deception of the Palestinians before the Arab peoples. Al- Rantisi said the return of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations renders a free service to the United States and the Zionist enemy at the expense of the Palestinian people.

On remarks by Rabin on steps to take back the deportees as soon as the negotiations start, al-Rantisi said events are a dangerous farce. Rabin, he added, did not and will not announce anything before rubbing the nose of the so-called Palestinian delegation in dirt ahead of its return to Washington. Rabin achieved a major goal by undermining Palestinian unanimity. And we are amazed by those who sing the praises of Arab unanimity at the expense of that of the Palestinians. He asked: If there is no Palestinian consensus, what is the use of Arab consensus?

Al-Rantisi added: Rabin said there will be no deportations in the foreseeable future. Saying this, he emphasized to the Palestinian delegation and 'Arafat that he intends to deport the Palestinians. Despite this, they agreed to return to the negotiations, he added.

Al-Rantisi urged Fatah and the other Palestinian factions inside the territories to beware the Zionist scheme that seeks to stir sedition and civil war inside the occupied territories. He said the deportation of Islamists appeals to some opportunist figures who gain ground at the expense of those who have sacrificed for the Palestinian cause. He added: We make no threats and we do not believe in assassinations for political reasons. We leave it to the people to use their own means to prevent this serious deterioration in the policy of the Palestinian delegation, which will bring only evil to the Palestinian people and waste their legitimate rights.

Deportees Issue Warning to Delegation Members

JN2104185893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Statement by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, "media spokesman for your Palestinian brothers deported to southern Lebanon," addressed to "our kinfolk in Palestine via al-Quds radio"; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Here is a plain statement to people. Let them be warned. Statement No. 2. [passage omitted]

Our mujahid Palestinian people: Now that matters have been clarified, intentions revealed, and decisions declared, we find ourselves dutybound to advise the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, to clarify to them the grave slippery road along which they are being dragged, and to be frank with them as we perceive the future. On this basis, we will make matters plain to them. Before it is too late, we say: Brother members of the negotiating delegation, they want you at the negotiating table while your people are being slain on a daily basis, while their homes are being demolished with rockets, their honor encroached upon, their children being displaced, and while they are being humiliated. Meanwhile, the Jews are showing disregard for all international decisions, norms, and conventions. If you ignore all of that and still go to the negotiations, this does not make you respected, either by the young or old among your kinfolk inside the homeland and in the diaspora.

It is the wish of the people that you do not go to the negotiations. If you violate the will of the people, then you should know that you will be a loser, irrespective of the promised achievements and gains. Irrespective of how great they are, achievements and gains are not worth your life. What is the worth of achievements and gains after losing your life, not to mention the loss of the afterlife?

Sister wives of the members of the negotiating team: You have a major role in preventing your husbands from participating in the negotiations. Your husbands are the dearest people to you, and you care about their reputation, dignity, and popularity. They are now violating the will of the people and swimming against a sweeping current. If they continue their swim and get swept away by the current, this would be an unparalleled loss. As from now, you must have a stand which maintains your homes, children, and husbands, so that you can keep your head high among the people, since you have never been supportive of wasting our rights and homeland and of displacing men and keeping them away from their children, wives, and homes. Let it be known to you that the deportees have tribes and families that will not forget them. Whoever tries to bypass them and ignore their cause and destiny by capitalizing on their suffering, he will be placing his own life on the line. We pray for the safety of your husbands. This is a piece of advice, and we are trying to be clear and frank. The matter is seriously grave.

We approach the brother sons, relatives, tribes, and families of the negotiating team, as well as our kinfolk in occupied Palestine and in the diaspora. We feel the situation to be fraught with danger. The people and their rights, land, property, homeland, and sanctities; the deportees and their rights, children, and families; the martyrs and their blood and sacrifices; the detainees and the principles for the sake of which they have been detained, cannot be ignored and no sane person can turn a blind eye to them in the quest for material and moral temptations. Any harm, God forbid, that is brought to the Palestinian people affects you all. Therefore, all of you should play your role in maintaining the reputation, honor, cohesion, and safety of everyone. Your role is to convince the negotiators of the need to retreat from this path, which smacks of betrayal of all the aspirations of the Palestinian people with their various trends. You must adopt a stand that can be recorded for you in the honorable chapters of history. Your role is fully appreciated by all. We beseech God to grant you success in what is in the good of the homeland and people. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, media spokesman for your Palestinian brothers deported to southern Lebanon.

Hizballah: Arab Decision on Talks 'Astonishing'

NC2304090793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] There has been mounting criticism about the Arab decision to participate in the settlement talks. In a statement yesterday, Hizballah said: The Zionist onslaught we are experiencing today, represented in persistent attacks against civilian villages, regions, and citizens, is nothing new. This is the natural face of occupation, especially when it finds no international deterrent or military force opposing it. The current escalation acquires a new dimension in light of the Arab delegations' decision to return to the ninth round of talks even though none of the conditions set earlier has been met.

The Hizballah statement said Israel goes to the talks with hands stained with the blood of innocent and defenseless people of the south and the occupied Palestinian territories. The enemy can besiege the occupied West Bank and Gaza, kill the people of the south, destroy property and means of living, and yet sit at the negotiating table to elaborately explain its alleged concern for peace and stability in the region.

The statement added: It becomes more certain with each passing day the required peace is a peace for the Zionist enemy, nothing more. The peoples of the region will always have to pay the costly bill of this peace from their freedoms, souls, and capabilities.

The statement said the participation decision is astonishing. It is a slap in the face of all the peoples of the region, who hoped the Arabs would demonstrate a cohesive position and at least adhere to the conditions and considerations they set, including the implementation of Resolution 799 concerning the deportees, an end to the aggressive acts, and a lift of the siege on the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The Hizballah statement said the position of the Lebanese Government and the PLO leadership represents an abandonment of their responsibilities toward our people, who suffer under the yoke of occupation and its aggressive measures. Hence, the statement adds, while

we denounce this relinquishment of defense and support responsibility, we emphasize that it will not affect our determination to continue our mission to defend our kinfolk and lands, fully aware of the fact that the enemy fears nothing but the real confrontation imposed on it by our brothers in the Islamic resistance and the blessed intifadah. These confrontations are carried out with the will of the faithful and the right to repulse aggression. The Zionists know nothing can deter them except the jihad that harms them.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for ICO Meeting

NC2204212193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] A Lebanese delegation led by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan left Beirut for Karachi this evening to attend the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] 21st Foreign Ministers Conference, to be held 24-29 April.

Al-Hasan said that the Lebanese delegation will focus on the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and western al-Biqa' and will try to get the ICO to pass a resolution condemning the occupation and Israel's repeated attacks on Lebanon. He added that he will press for prompter action on establishing an Arab-international fund to assist Lebanon.

Al-Hariri, Birri Leave for Paris

NC2204195593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Paris today on a private family visit. Al-Hariri will go from Paris to the Vatican on Sunday to meet with His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

In Paris, al-Hariri will hold talks tomorrow with French counterpart Edouard Balladur, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, and Jacques Chirac, Paris mayor and head of the Rally for the Republic Party. Accompanying al-Hariri on his visit is Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, who left aboard al-Hariri's private plane.

Explosion Targets Fatah Official's Home

NC2304112893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] An explosive device went off in the al-Rashidiyah camp at dawn today. The target was the home of Kamil Huwaydi, an official in Fatah-The Revolutionary Council's general command. The explosion wounded the official's wife and son.

Elsewhere, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over the capital and its suburbs just before 1000 today.

Amal Ambushes Joint Israeli-SLA Patrol 21 Apr

NC2204172193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The Lebanese Resistance Brigades, Amal, has issued a statement saying that one of its groups last night ambushed a joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army patrol on the road to the 'Ali-al-Tahir position, engaged it in a clash with machine guns and rockets, and killed or wounded all its members.

Defense Minister on Security Situation in South

PM2204131393 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 17 Apr 93 p 32

[Interview with Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-RIYAD] The security escalation in the south coincides with the approach of the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. In your view, will this round be held, and how long will the present situation in the south continue?

[Dallul] With regard to the security issue, we are accustomed to the fact that before every round Israel tends to escalate the security situation, shell peaceful civilians, and make threats, as though it is going to the negotiations with gun in hand. They have never gone to the negotiations with a desire for peace or an olive branch as we have or as all the Arab states are doing. As for the convening of the round, we are bound to the cordon states. If they decide we should go, we are willing do so. If they do not, we will not. We are part of this group. What harms us harms it and what satisfies us satisfies it.

[AL-RIYAD] What does Israel aim to achieve from security escalation?

[Dallul] To put the Israelis in a stronger position. As we know, Israel is an entity based on military force and military racism. They use this against all parties, especially Lebanon, a small state with limited resources. They are trying to put pressure on us by bombarding us in order to terrify us.

[AL-RIYAD] But Israel puts the ball in the Lebanese court and holds the Islamic resistance responsible, regarding it as a "terrorist" group.

[Dallul] If they accuse the resistance of terrorism, what can they be accused of? They are occupiers, occupiers of our land. Is it that they have left our land yet operations are still carried out against them? As long as they are occupiers, every resistance is legitimate, because the resistance is trying to end the occupation of its land. I wonder: How do they describe their actions against the intifadah and the Palestinian people inside [the occupied territories]? Is that civilized behavior? They recently killed a girl who was standing with her family. The ball is in their court. We tell them: Leave our land and we

guarantee security throughout the region. They insist on having the land, peace, supremacy, arrogance, and domination at the same time. That is unacceptable.

[AL-RIYAD] A recent resistance operation resulted in the killing of of three Israelis inside the occupied border strip. How do you expect Israel to reply?

[Dallul] I expect every kind of mischief from Israel. The three were killed on Lebanese territory. What had they been doing there? They are occupiers, and occupiers must expect resistance from the people. If they retaliate, it is our fate. Israel always retaliates, with or without reason. We are accustomed to that.

[AL-RIYAD] How would the Lebanese Army react?

[Dallul] The Lebanese Army is responsible for protecting its own and civilians' positions. It always responds every time its own positions or civilian positions near them are shelled. These are the orders, and it implements them with discipline and efficiency.

[AL-RIYAD] But there is an international resolution (425) which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Do you not believe that Lebanon's participation in the peace negotiations has linked implementation of the international resolution to the course of the negotiations in the Middle East? How correct is this view?

[Dallul] It is inaccurate. When we participated in the negotiations, we did so in accordance with messages exchanged with the cosponsors of the conference. Our participation is only for the the sake of implementation of Resolution 425. The cosponsors agreed to that. And Israel is aware of it. We went to the peace conference by decision of the Council of Ministers in order to implement Resolution 425 and by decision of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. [Passage omitted]

[AL-RIYAD] The government puts forward the slogan: "There is no intention of curbing the resistance's role as long as occupation continues." What will the resistance's future be if Israel withdraws?

[Dallul] If the occupation disappears, there will be no resistance. The resistance is aimed against the occupation. If the occupation disappears, the justifications for the resistance disappear. At then the state will be responsible for guaranteeing security by the Lebanese Army. [Passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Letter Threatens Economic Blockade Against Kabul

NC2204191093 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 22 Apr 93

[By Terence White]

[Excerpts] Kabul, April 22 (AFP)—A representative of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Thursday denied his faction was responsible for threatening an economic blockade against the Afghan capital of Kabul effective Saturday. But the threat, carried in an anonymous "night letter" and spread by rumor throughout the capital, was not denied by the faction's troops manning key Hezb positions on the city's outskirts. "There has been no official declaration by Hezb about such a blockade," said the Hezb delegate, a member of the Kabul ceasefire monitoring commission.

In a "notice from the commanders of the battle-fronts around Kabul" to the "heroic and mujahed Afghan nation" the unsigned letter dated Wednesday warned of an embargo on traffic wishing to enter Kabul. "Effective Saturday April 24, 1993 all people and vehicles are prohibited to enter Kabul," the anonymous letter stated. The letter, widely believed to have originated from the Hezb faction headed by Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, accuses the government in Kabul of reneging on the terms of the recently signed Islamabad accords.

As agreed by eight mojahedin faction leaders last March in Pakistan, Hekmatyar was nominated prime minister with authority to form a cabinet, but President Borhanoddin Rabbani has failed to approve the nominations.

The letter directly accuses the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society] faction, a bitter rival to the Hezb which until his December 1992 election as president was headed by Rabbani, of trying to single-handedly maintain power in Kabul. It states that the Jami'at refuses to recognise the Islamabad accords because it does not want to give up control of 11 ministries. Other accusations include not participating in the agreed joint- party commissions and not releasing prisoners-of-war.

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jami'at subfaction, whose forces make up much of Kabul's military, is accused in the letter of abusing the ceasefire period and of preparing for another war. [passage omitted]

At a Hezb checkpost on the Lowgar highway which links Charasiab with Kabul, his guerrillas said they had heard the rumors but had not been notified officially. "If there is a real intention to cut the road we will be informed beforehand," said one of the guards.

Other guards manning a Hezb checkpost two kilometres from the city limits at Hudkheyl on the main highway leading east to the Pakistan border said they would not be responsible for roadblocks, but understood the threat. "The only available way to put pressure on the government in order to implement the Islamabad accords is to block the roads," said one. "By this way the people will stand up and start demonstrations." The guard said all four main road routes into Kabul would be cut but could not say whether the blockade would include cutting power supplies or the closure of Kabul international airport.

A Hezb mojahedin commander based five kilometers (three miles) southeast of the city limits, was more explicit with his threats. "The blockade is just the first step. If the government does not cooperate we will start bombardment of Kabul followed by an infantry attack," he said.

At a Hezb heavy weapons site a little further south artillery rounds for two Soviet-made long-range field guns were for the first time observed stacked in the open next to the guns, alongside a fully-armed 40-barrelled rocket launcher.

Defense Official on Events in Qandahar

LD2204205193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Interview with Mohammad Yunis Qanuni, general head of political affairs of the Defense Ministry, by unidentified announcer, in Kabul, date not given, interview in Dari at end of Pashto newscast—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Esteemed Mohammad Yunis, general head of political affairs of the Defense Ministry, would you please first of all tell us about the purpose of your visit to Qandahar?

[Qanuni] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: After the victory of the Islamic Revolution [words indistinct] we wanted to restore the capital's relations with provinces and provinces' relations with the capital both in military and civil areas. The province of Qandahar is one of the major provinces of our country which has special priority as far as the government plans and programs are concerned. We intended to restore relations between the capital and Qandahar Province but due to the early involvements we could not realize this objective. However we succeeded recently in paying a visit to Qandahar Province within the composition of a delegation. The purpose of this visit was, on one hand, to bring about a complete unity and coordination among the Qandahar jihadi commanders; in other words to set up a council for Qandahar Province. On the other hand we wanted to restore relations between the capital and Qandahar and vice versa.

On the basis of these two objectives and moreover to see the heroic people of Qandahar who have done much work during the 10-year long jihad we went to Qandahar. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Some of the mass media have spread rumors regarding clashes which flared up in Qandahar Province. The rumors allege that the recent differences resulted from the distribution of cash allocations which had been transferred to Qandahar from the capital. Could you please explain this issue?

[Qanuni] The propaganda spread by the mass media regarding events in Qandahar—fortunately all of these reports are baseless and there is no truth in them. The events in Qandahar are separate from the visit of the delegation and the distribution of cash allocations transferred by the Defense Ministry to Qandahar. The main cause of these clashes which flared up right at the time when our mission and our duties were completed in Qandahar—the real cause of these clashes was a minor and trivial confrontation which took place between one or two mojahedin attached to commander 'Abdol Alim who had just arrived from Mazar-e Sharif and one or two mojahedin attached to commander Mola Naqib who is the commander of the army corps in Qandahar. The conflict which took place between these two people caused the fighting to flare up. This fighting was entirely a local event and had nothing whatsoever to do with the visit of the delegation and arrival of the Defense Ministry cash allocation in Qandahar. When we arrived in Qandahar actually there had already been some differences between some of the commanders and between some members of the Qandahar council. Fortunately, as a result of the efforts by the delegation and understanding between the council members we have removed most of the difficulties between the brothers.

With the exception of Ostad 'Abdol Alim, who was in Mazar-e Sharif when we arrived in Qandahar, we reached an understanding with the majority members of the council and difficulties were sorted out. We came to an understanding and agreed that the cash allocated to the Qandahar army corps and transferred to Qandahar by the Defense Ministry, is to be distributed on the basis of [word indistinct] and organizational structure in the army corps. All commanders expressed a unanimous view in this respect and they all agreed. There was nothing else controversial in this respect. Regarding other issues such as restoration of ties between Qandahar and the capital we reached an understanding. All commanders as well as the tribal chiefs and other dignitaries who were in Qandahar reached the conclusion that they [commanders] should come to the capital on the basis of an invitation, carry out talks here, and establish contacts with the capital. They can even take part in the ceremony marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan. They were all prepared to do this. The clash took place at the time when we concluded our mission in Qandahar. We were just waiting for good weather in Kabul for our plane to land so that we could return to Kabul. Unfortunately the weather was not good and our plane was delayed for one or two days. When Ostad Alim arrived in Qandahar from Mazar-e Sharif and as soon as he arrived in Qandahar a rumor was spread there that he had allegedly entered Qandahar with a number of [? men] dispatched from Mazar-e Sharif. A clash broke out between one or two mojahedin attached to Ostad 'Abdol Alim and one or two mojahedin attached to commander Mola Naqib Akhonzada, and then this developed to an extent.

[Words indistinct] Mola Naqib Akhonzada, general commander of the Army Corps to prevent the spread and progress of the fighting. Fortunately his reply was positive and he worked hard to prevent the spread of fighting. He proved to be successful in his efforts. Mola Naqib made efforts to convince us and to give us assurances that he did not want the fighting to spread in the city crowded with people, and he was even prepared to join us—in fact he did join us in our scheduled journey to Helmand and then to Herat to give us assurances and to show that he did not want to get involved in the fighting. During the time when fighting was going on in Qandahar Mola Naqib was personally together with us in the journey both to Helmand and to Herat.

Therefore, all commanders were in agreement on the issue of cash allocation. Actually we did not have anything to distribute there, the money allocation was sent with us because there was no other fight scheduled for Qandahar at the time of our departure from Kabul. The cash was directly sent to the bank and it was safe in the bank under the protection of commanders. When the clash took place there was no disagreement in this area. The entire cause of confrontation was a clash which flared up between mojahedin—two of them attached to Ostad 'Alim and the other two attached to Mola Naqib Akhonzada, and then this gradually spread. Fortunately as a result of efforts by the ulema, elders, and tribal chiefs who worked hard, a cease-fire was announced after two or three days. Both sides observed the cease-fire. I can say clearly that the event that took place in Qandahar was entirely a local mishap. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] In conclusion I would like to ask you to tell us about the results of your recent visit to Qandahar Province?

[Qanuni] Briefly: Regarding the results of our journey as a whole and the activities carried out in Qandahar by our delegation I can say that our journey was a successful one. It brought about successful results. We were really warmly welcomed by the people, council members of Qandahar and jihadi commanders of Qandahar. We succeeded in taking positive steps for removing differences between the commanders there. Genuine unity came into being among the majority of the commanders, and we reached understandings and spoke with the majority of tribal chiefs who enjoy vast psychological influence. We are satisfied with our conversation with the people, elders, and chiefs. We succeeded in passing on the fundamental or main policy of the government to Qandahar Province; and to note and bring back with us our brothers' point of view. We saw closely most of the difficulties our brothers are facing there; and I have

found ways to solve these difficulties. It has been clarified what should be done to reconstruct Qandahar, to open the government offices both in military and civil areas. We have made up our mind and have found the actual ways for this. We came back very happily and the only thing that caused our unhappiness and regret was the clash that flared up at the end of our mission which continued for a day or two. As a result of this, regretfully a number of the inhabitants were martyred. It was a useless and vain clash which broke out purely as a result of a local issue and then spread. [passage omitted on efforts made there to stop the fighting]

A delegation of Qandahar council will come to the capital and we, God willing, will serve them.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Islamic Conference

LD2204174293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Esteemed Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, left Kabul today for Pakistan, at the head of a delegation, to take part in the Islamic Conference Organization meeting. At Kabul Airport the delegation was seen off by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, the deputy head of protocol, a number of high ranking officials in this Ministry, and the charge d'affaires of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul.

The Islamic Conference Organization meeting is due to be held in Karachi on Saturday, 4 Sowr [24 April] at foreign minister level.

Iran To Set Up Technical, Vocational Training Center

LD2204163293 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Iran is to set up a technical and vocational training center in Afghanistan when the situation returns to normal in that country.

The decision was made in a meeting here today between Iran's Labour Minister Hoseyn Kamali and his Afghan counterpart Mowlawi Ahmad Nazar Balkhi.

According to the agreement Iran is to organise training courses in such fields as computers, automobile, radio and television, for one hundred Afghan nationals.

In addition, management courses will be held in Iran for at least five Afghan Labour Ministry officials every year.

Balkhi who is here to take part in the 13th Conference of Asian and Pacific Labour Ministers (CAPLAM) which opened yesterday, hoped that the 15,000 legally employed Afghans in Iran, would return home when the situation becomes normal.

On wages and welfare of workers in his country, Balkhi said wages have been doubled following the establishment of the Islamic Government.

He added that steps have been adopted for the employment of women workers mostly in the handicrafts industry.

The 3-day CAPLAM meet, inaugurated by President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, is being attended by representatives from 50 countries and several specialized organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

CAPLAM meets every three years in a member state, and the last meeting was held in China.

Bangladesh

Controversial Jamaat Leader Granted Citizenship

BK2204134093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1240 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The one-member Division Bench of the High Court in its verdict delivered today declared that Professor Gholam Azam, the leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami, is a citizen of Bangladesh by birth. Delivering his judgment on a writ petition filed seeking the restoration of the citizenship of Professor Gholam Azam, Justice Anwarul Haq Chowdhury dismissed the notification of 18 April 1974, which had terminated the citizenship of Professor Gholam Azam on charges of collaborating with the occupation forces during the 1971 war of independence. The court in its judgment also termed as illegal the show-cause notice served on Professor Gholam Azam on 23 March 1992. The attorney general who conducted this case on behalf of the government said the government may consider filing an appeal in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the verdict of the High Court Division.

1992 Export Earnings Exceed Previous Year

BK2104161793 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Bangladesh earned over 7,593 crore taka in the export sector last year. This amount is higher than the export earnings of the previous year by more than 25 percent. The target for export earnings for the current fiscal year has been fixed at 9,750 crore taka which is 28 percent higher than last year's target. This was disclosed at the meeting of the Ministry of Commerce Standing Committee held at the Parliament House today with Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar in the chair.

India

Minister on Antiterrorist Activities

BK2204134493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] India is furnishing all available information on Pakistan's encouragement on terrorism in India to countries which have put Islamabad on the watch list. Giving

the information during the question hour in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said assistance from friendly countries which have superior techniques to counter terrorism is being sought. He said India has signed or is at advanced stage of signing extradition treaties with four countries. Lok Sabha was informed today that some foreign nationals have infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir and along with Pakistan-trained militants have indulged in terrorist activities. Answering a question, the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said that a close vigil is being kept to check the infiltration. He said 14 foreign nationals have been arrested and 21 killed in Jammu and Kashmir since 1991. Lok Sabha was informed today that because of increase in terrorist activities along the India-Nepal border, the government has established an anti-terrorist checkpost near near (Sanauli), in Maharajganj District of Uttar Pradesh. In a written answer, the minister of state for home, Mr. P.M. Sayeed, said that border security and policing has been tightened all along the border.

Pakistani Reveals ISI Hand in Terrorism

BK2204155993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] There is more revelation of the involvement of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence] in the terrorist activities in India. A Pakistan national, Imtiaz Ahmed Bhutt, who was arrested by the security forces in the Kashmir valley, revealed during interrogations that ISI provided free weaponry, ammunition, and set up training camps in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied territories [in Kashmir] for creating trouble in India.

Minister Warns Pakistan of 'Grave Consequences'

BK2304034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has warned Pakistan of grave consequences if it does not desist from terrorist activities against India. Addressing freedom fighters at Sonepur in Bihar, Mr. Pilot said that Pakistan's involvement in the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Bombay has been proved. He said India has shown extraordinary patience in the spirit of Simla Agreement, but Pakistan failed to reciprocate. The minister cautioned the people to keep themselves away from divisive forces trying to divide the country.

Paper Probes Pakistan's ISI Link To Bombay Blasts

BK2204125593 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Apr 93 p 7

[By Ashok Vyas]

[Text] Gandhinagar, April 10—Notwithstanding all the indications which were available, the intelligence agencies were rather baffled as to why no major incident, like the one which took place on that black Friday of March 12 in Bombay, has taken place either in Ahmedabad or in any other part of this West coast state of Gujarat.

One reason could well be that Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) considers Gujarat as a safe haven for storage and shipments of all kinds of contraband, including arms and ammunition, and a safe pasture for creating its pockets of influence which were used for meetings of its henchmen and terrorists, who have been sneaking in and out of Gujarat without much difficulty.

From the bits and pieces of information, which has trickled down from interrogation of various people, it is certain that the final instructions of the Pakistan's diabolical plan to achieve economic and political destabilization of India were conveyed during a meeting, which took place somewhere in Gujarat, possibly in Sabarkantha district bordering Pakistan, in late December in the aftermath of Ayodhya incident of Dec. 6.

It is now believed by intelligence agencies that the Dec. 6 Ayodhya incident, which resulted in the demolition of structure, was a God-sent opportunity for Pakistan, which was able to put into operation its plan to further intensify its low intensity conflict and proxy war which it has been waging against this country. The purpose of the new plan was economic destabilization of India, which could in turn lead to political instability.

Incidents, which followed in the wake of demolition of the Ayodhya structure in various parts of the country, hardened the attitude of some of the members of the Muslim community, which the Pakistan has exploited to the hilt.

It was in this context that the meeting reportedly attended by a handful of people, was called. At this meeting details of the plan like the targets to be hit, indiscriminate killing of the members of the majority community and above all the assassination of Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray were given.

At the same time underworld elements, who were trained in effective use of knives, were contacted through the underworld don Dawood and they were given specific instructions to undertake widespread stabbings, killings, arson, looting in Bombay and some other parts of Maharashtra and in Surat, Broach and Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

At least, two terrorists, one from Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and another from Punjab named Lal Singh Saini, reportedly attended the meeting.

Another two figures which figure as far as Gujarat is concerned are C. Abdul Khadar and Mohammad Bashir, an aircraft maintenance engineer, who hail from Moppla district of Kerala.

Apart from nurturing, training and providing moral and material support to terrorist outfits in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Pakistan has been able to establish close links with fundamentalist Muslim organisations like Jamat-e-Islami, Muslim Seva Sangh and Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

Abdul Khadar has had links with the SIMI for the past decade and a half. A committed supporter of Kashmir militants, he has held major posts in SIMI being the president of its Kerala State unit, member of central advisory board (Majlis-e-Shoora) of SIMI and was president of all-India SIMI twice between 1986 and 1991.

Abdul Khadar and Mohammad Bashir have been visiting Gujarat often and have reportedly been propagating that the Muslims should take offensive postures.

A senior Pakistan High Commission official working in the consulate wing had contacted Abdul Khadar and later put him in touch with an ISI official in Islamabad. Abdul Khadar visited Pakistan a number of times starting early 1991. His soft feelings for Kashmir militants were fully exploited by the ISI official, who became his control. He was brought in touch with Abdur Rashid Trabi and Amir in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and officials of Jamat-e-Islami of Pakistan.

The main task which Abdul Khadar was given was to recruit Muslim youths in India for being trained in use of arms and explosives and sabotage in Pakistan.

Abdul Khadar reportedly recruited a large number of Muslim youths from Gujarat and Kerala and possibly from other parts of the country too, who were sent to Pakistan for training.

Abdul Khadar was also brought in contact with Sikh militants led by Lal Singh Saini by Amir-ul-Haq of Jamat-e-Islami of Pakistan. Lal Singh Saini was in Pakistan for training in 1991 when the first meeting took place. Tahir Jamal, a former secretary general of SIMI, was also there. Subsequently, the three—Abdul Khadar, Lal Singh Saini and Tahir Jamal—travelled extensively in Maharashtra and the south to arrange suitable hideouts for Sikh and Kashmiri militants.

Khadar and Lal Singh Saini reportedly surveyed the areas around the Bombay stock exchange in January and the Dadar residence of Mr. Thackeray. However, Lal Singh, whose task was to assassinate Bal Thackeray developed cold feet and the plan to blow up the stock exchange was aborted.

However, the other plans of widespread stabbings, looting, arson and killings took place on January 8 both in Bombay and Ahmedabad.

Subsequently, a more elaborate plan was prepared which was executed in Bombay last month. Since Gujarat could well be the next target, the security situation is being regularly reviewed.

Bomb Explosion in Gujarat Injures 33

BK2204125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] In Gujarat, 33 persons were injured in a bomb explosion at Surat railway station today. The police suspected that the bomb was thrown from the railway overbridge. Investigations are on.

Curfew Imposed

BK2304032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] In Gujarat, curfew has been imposed in Salabatpura, Mahidharpura, Athwa Lines and Chowk Bazar police station areas of Surat since yesterday evening. Curfew was clamped after the death of one person in a stabbing incident during violence in the wake of a bomb blast at Surat railway station. Thirty-five people were injured in the bomb blast,which occurred shortly before the Ahmedabad-bound Gujarat Express was to arrive. According to police, no untoward incident has been reported since late last night and the situation is under control.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Faizabad District police have seized 300 kgs of explosives,including 125 crude bombs from a house under Kumarganj police station. According to a police spokesman, one person has been arrested in this connection.

Opposition Plans To Oppose Budgetary Provisions

BK2204160893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The National Front-Left Front Combine in the Lok Sabha will move cut motions on five issues relating to the budget proposals. The issues are fertilizer prices, import of wheat, movement of foodgrains, liberalization of imports, and land reforms. This was decided at a meeting of the leaders of the Combine in New Delhi today. Briefing newsmen, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal, said that the Front will press for division and support even BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] motions on the issues if they are taken up first. He said the Janata Dal will issue a whip and mobilize support on these issues.

'Core Sectors' of Economy Said Nearing 'Crisis'

BK2204080393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] Certain core sectors of the economy and many Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are drifting towards a crisis with the Narasimha Rao Government refusing to shed its indecisiveness.

According to senior bureaucrats and PSU top brass, the inordinate delay in taking decisions on important economic issues is also sending wrong signals to the foreign investors and will blunt the overall positive impact of economic reforms.

The areas which are suffering due to lack of policy initiatives or slow decision-making process include telecommunications, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, labour reforms, industrial restructuring, management of PSUs and public sector projects and financial sector.

In the field of telecommunications, the Govemment has not cared to announce a policy which has been on the anvil since 1983, notwithstanding the strictures from the Parliamentary committees. The foreign and Indian private sector investors, who want to enter the primary telecomunications services field in a big way, are getting disillusioned. British Telecom, for instance, has already ignored India after waiting for years to get approvals for its project to provide modern telecom facilities to industrial estates in Maharashtra.

Sources point out that with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) neither having adequate resources no the capabilities to take up the giganttc task of modernising and expanding the services, poor telecom infrastructure will continue to act as a major hurdle in industrial growth.

Though over two years have passed since Athreya Committee submitted its report on restructuring of DoT and MTNL [Metropolitan Telecommunications Corporation Limited], the Government has not taken any action on its recommendations.

This is despite repeated pleas by MTNL Chairman and Managing Director and its unions to take a decision on this report which will decide the fate of thousands of employees who have been denied the benefits of that public sector workers get, since the inception of MTNL in 1986.

The unions, which recently went on one-day strike, may have no option but to resort to an indefinite agitation.

The fertiliser industry is also going through an unprecedented turmoil with the reconstituted Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) being nowhere near sight to review the impact of partial implementation of the recommendations of Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Fertiliser Pricing. As the CCPA had accepted the JPC's package of recommendations in August 1992, the Cabinet Secretary had prepared a note on the progress in its implementation about three months ago.

While some recommendations remain unimplemented, others have been implemented partially. Moreover, a major implemented recommendation relating to import of inputs at official exchange rate has got reversed with the full convertibility of rupee on trade account. The production costs of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) industry, which was earlier finding it difficult to compete against cheap duty-free imports, have risen sharply. Many DAP plants have, thus, closed down. The Government has, however, neither imposed any import duty on DAP nor found any other means to save the industry.

The steep drop in consumption of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilisers has also spelled doom for the agriculture sector. If the present consumption trend continues, soils will become deficient in these nutrients and also dilute the beneficial impact of application of controlled nitrogenous fertilisers on crops as the nutrients have a combined effect on the health of crop. Crop yields are, thus, expected to decline after one or two years, thereby necessitating massive import of foodgrain.

The pharmaceuticals industry continues to be in the grip of licensing and price controls with the Government failing to liberalise this sector. P.V. Narasimha Rao's penchant for consensus has delayed the introduction of new drug policy. The draft policy, which was tabled in both the Houses of Parliament last year, has not yet been taken up for discussion.

The search for illusive consensus has also delayed the introduction of an exit policy for companies. The foreign investors and the captains of the industry have been demanding for long a policy which would help them quickly wind up loss-incurring companies. Same is the case with the labour law reforms which includes an exit policy for workers and new framework for industrial relations.

The public sector Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) is a glaring instance of indecisiveness, which can scare away many a foreign investors. The Nauru Government, which has a 49 per cent stake in PPL, has been pressing the Indian Government to allow it withdraw from this loss-incurring venture. But, India has neither allowed Nauru to sell its shares to private investors nor itself bought them. The move by Narasimha Rao Government to buy Nauru's stake recently required fresh approval by the new Ministers of Chemicals and Fertilisers and External Affairs due to the exit of their predecessors under the last reshuffle of Council of Ministers.

The Government is also taking too much time in initiating the next round of liberalisation in the field of industrial licensing. In the field of financial sector reforms, the Government continues to drag its feet over giving adequate powers to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Several recommendations of Narasimha Committee including non-controversial ones such as encouraging banks and Financial Institutions to enter into each other's preserve have not been implemented.

The public sector continues to get raw deal. Many posts of chief executives and whole-time directors have been lying vacant for a long time. Some of the names recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board are being reviewed by the Ministries on account of the last reshuffle in the Council of Ministers. Bureaucrats say

that it is standard practice to submit to the new Ministers all decisions including appointments proposed or cleared by the previous Ministers.

PSU executives say that the Government continues to take years to approve the public sector projects even when they are to be financed through internal or extra-budgetary resources, while private sector projects are approved within a few days. They say the Government has no intention to create a level playing ground for the public and private sector.

The Government has also not yet formulated a sound policy for disinvestment of shares of PSUs, notwithstanding criticism over the miserably low realisations through faulty sale

Commentary on Trend in Relations With Israel

BK2204113693 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Commentary by Asutosh Das, special correspondent of the ORISSA TIMES]

[Text] The India-Israeli relations are poised for an upward tend with the visit of the Israeli foreign minister, Mr. Shim'on Peres, who will pay a three-day visit to India in the third week of May. With trade prospects brightened and cooperation in the defense field on the anvil, Mr. Peres visit is expected to give a fillip to bilateral relations. There is also likelihood of India benefitting from the Israeli expertise in tackling the activities of terrorist groups. Mr. J.N. Dixit's visit to Tel Aviv in March had set in motion the program of Israeli foreign minister's visit to India.

The stage has also been set for joint research and development in industry by the two countries. The idea discussed last week between teams of industrialists from the two countries is likely to be given concrete shape during the Israeli foreign minister's visit. The leader of the Israeli business delegation to India, Mr. (Lopeman), who is also president of the Manufacturers Association of Israel, has indicated that his country was having similar arrangements for joint research with France, Germany, and the United States. Of these, the tie-ups with the United States is the oldest having been established 12 years ago. The joint research envisages the creation of a bi-national research and development organization which will finance industrial research by ventures in which Israel and India would be partners. These ventures could be in either Israel or in India. An agreement on science and technology is also expected to be signed between the two countries next month. Israel attaches great importance to R and D in industry, science, and technology. In Israel, the government shares the cost of such research. Part of R and D can also come from the defense forces that are increasingly put to civilian use. Now the trend in Israel is a tag on marketting to this process. [sentence as heard]

The two countries are slated to sign a series of economic agreements, including one on double taxation and the exchange of commercial information for giving an impetus to bilateral trade. The business between the two countries would be strengthened through the initiative of businessmen, rather than through the officials of the two countries.

Following the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Israeli Embassy has been engaged in completing the groundwork for the fruitful interaction between industries of both countries. Dramatic changes on the Indian and Israeli scene, including drastic decline in the inflation rate and the opening up of the two market economies, have brightened the prospects of cooperation in various sectors of the economy of the two countries. Israel has a free trade agreement with both the United States and the European Common Market. The (?patented) products with at least 35 percent of the Israeli content could go into these markets freely. In this backdrop, one could visualize Indian companies exporting half-finished goods to Israel to which the later could aid its 35 percent and re-export them. While Israel has the advantage of its trade agreements, high technology and skilled manpower, India on the other hand has the advantage of cheap labor and high-growth potential in the region of its location. The comparative advantages of the two countries could lead to joint ventures. At present, the India-Israeli trade amounts to some $200 million and there is a scope of its growth by 50 percent per annum, at least for the next two years.

The rationale of the upgradation of the India-Israeli ties last year comes to a large extent from the fallout of the Gulf war in 1991 and the state-sponsored Muslim fundamentalist terrorism on the borders of both India and Israel. The relationship got a new thrust when in December 1991, India supported a UN resolution whereby deciding an earlier resolution which had stated Zionism synonymous with racism. The common approach on Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] has also put the two countries on the same platform—which is that because of the discriminatory nature of the NPT that neither India nor Israel have signed it. Chances of military cooperation for this strategic reason and economic cooperation, including interaction in the areas of agriculture and tourism, have great potential in bringing the two countries closer.

Nuclear Plant Construction, Operating Costs on Rise

BK2204130693 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 93 p 9

[By HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, April 16—The costs of new nuclear power projects continue to escalate while the older projects continue to lose money on one account or

another, the performance budget of the Department of Atomic Energy for 1993-94 reveals.

Tbe Kakarpar Atomic Power Project in Gujarat was estimated to cost Rs [Rupees] 382.51 crore in 1981. It is now expected to be completed at Rs 1,140 crore. The first unit of the project was synchronised with the grid in November 1992; the second unit is expected to go "critical" in December 1993.

The cost of unit III and IV of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project [RAPP] at Kota under construction has gone up to Rs 2,100 crore from the sanctioned cost of Rs 711.57 crore. The project would be completed in 1996-97.

Meanwhile, the heavily loss-making unit-1 of the RAPP constructed mostly with Canadian help, has been taken over by the Government from Nuclear Power Corporation. Capacity utilisation in this unit has been very poor and loss in 1992-93 was Rs 44.19 crore. In the current year the loss may be Rs 43.25 crore. The unit has been derated to 50 percent of its 220 MW capacity and is at present generating power sparingly. Unit-II of the same project, however, is working at 55 percent of capacity and has managed a profit of Rs 6.18 crore on a revenue of Rs 64.63 crore. At the same time its prospect for the current year does not appear much better.

In the Madras Atomic Power Station, the breakdown in the vital calandria equipment at the core of the reactor has reduced capacity utilisation and the project has operated at a loss of Rs 283 crore on a revenue of Rs 127.82 crore.

The costs have risen sharply in the Kaiga Atomic Power Station under construction in Karnataka. From a sanctioned cost of Rs 730.72 crore in 1987, the estimated cost today is Rs 2,050 crore due to escalation of prices, interest charges on borrowings etc. The project is estimated to be completed in 1996-97, taking almost 10 years for completion.

Country To Mass Produce Indigenous Supercomputers

BK2204163693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1626 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Bombay, April 22 (AFP)—An Indian firm plans to mass produce an indigenous supercomputer which can perform operations at nearly the same speed as the U.S. Cray XMP, a scientist said Thursday.

The state-run Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) will manufacture the supercomputer christened Anupam, which has been in use since last year with the Babha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) here, said H.K. Kaura. Kaura, who heads BARC's computer division, said Anupam will offer a peak computing speed of 640 million floating point operations per second.

"This kind of system is not easily available to everybody in the international market," he said in an interview. "Besides, supercomputers now available are very costly."

A Cray supercomputer sells for almost 10 million dollars, while Anupam would cost only around 16,000 dollars, he added.

Kaura said Anupam would cost less because it uses conventionally available micro processors to increase speed unlike the high-speed components that are part of the Cray supercomputer.

"As a result, Anupam needs only simple air conditioning, while the average supercomputer needs water or even freon (gas) cooling, both of which add to the cost," he said.

Scientists at BARC, India's premier research centre, took three years to develop Anupam.

Government To Market Space Technology Abroad

BK2304103293 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, April 14 (PTI)—Domestic telephone call via satellite from hand-held telephones and moving vehicles may be possible through India's INSAT-2C satellite, scheduled for launch next year.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to include mobile satellite service payloads on both INSAT-2C and INSAT-2D, the third and fourth indigenous INSAT satellites, says the 1992-93 annual report of the Department of Space.

ISRO is also collaborating with local electronic industries to develop an international maritime satellite (INMARSAT)-C terminal that makes possible transmission of data and text to and from moving aircraft, ships and remote locations.

The report also said final integration and testing of the INSAT- 2B satellite is now in progress at Bangalore. The satellite will be shipped to its launch site of Kourou (French-Guyana) later this month for launch in June this year.

ISRO has already sought additional geostationary orbit slots for its INSAT-2C, INSAT-2D, and INSAT-2E satellites, scheduled for launch in 1994, 1995 and 1996, the report said.

The report claimed that the Indian space programme is now mature enough to begin exporting indigenous space technology abroad. ISRO has already exported an oxidiser and binder to the Indonesian Space Agency.

ISRO has also received queries from prospective customers abroad for various satellite components including electro-optic systems, inertial systems, remote-sensing equipment and space chemicals.

The Department of Space has set up a new company, Antrix Corporation Limited, to market Indian space technology abroad, and India will begin to participate in international space tenders, the report added.

Several foreign agencies are actively considering the acquisition of IRS [Indian Remote Sensing] data directly in their countries.

The IRS-1C and IRS-1D satellites, to be launched in 1994 and 1996, will provide clearer images, possess stereoviewing and on- board recording facilities, and pass over India more often than the first two IRS satellites.

The report said Department of Space Technocrats are being encouraged to venture as entrepreneurs using technologies developed under the space programme.

It said a few scientists who took the lead are doing well in their attempts for productionisation of the products developed through these technologies.

ISRO has also initiated design work on a new satellite 'GRAMSAT' that will be used to disseminate region-specific information on health, environment, family welfare, and agriculture practices.

Iranian Minister Urges Closer Industrial Cooperation

LD2204182693 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 22, IRNA—The visiting Iranian Minister of Heavy Industry, Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian told members of the Indian industry today that there were many areas where fruitful cooperation in economy could be forged between India and Iran.

The minister, who is heading a high level delegation on a 5-day visit to India, was speaking to a gathering of Indian entrepreneurs under the aegis of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

The Iranian ambassador to New Delhi, 'Ali Reza Sheykh-'Attar also addressed the gathering.

The two officials noted that both India and Iran were in the process of bringing about major changes in their economic policies by changing from a state-controlled economy to one that was market- driven. The two countries could thus make use of each others experiences in this regard, they stressed.

Hoseynian urged the Indian industry to establish joint ventures with their Iranian counterparts to manufacture products in Iran. He noted that this would give them competitive advantage in Iran and also provide in-roads into the vast markets of the Central Asian republics as well as the recently enlarged 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

The sectors that the minister identified as areas where cooperation may be possible were auto-equipment parts and heavy industries.

Sheykh-'Attar, stressing that it was traders who first brought the two countries together, remarked that history must repeat itself. He hoped industry would take the initiative in forging this close relationship again.

About 60 members of the Indian industry were present at the gathering organised by the CII.

Paper on Problem of Illegal Bangladeshi Immigrants

BK2204001593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 13 Apr 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Aliens' Threat"]

[Text] Hopefully, it will be difficult for the Congress and the CPI(M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] to continue to play down the seriousness of the issue of the illegal entry of Bangladeshis into this country any longer. The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has been trying for several years to impress upon the Centre the vital importance of giving a high priority to this issue but, so far, to no avail. This is obviously why the party's National Executive, at its meeting in Calcutta, has reiterated its demand, in stronger terms than ever before, for stringent and immediate steps to identify and deport the immigrants who have violated the Indo- Bangladeshi border with impunity for so long. The fact that the Central Government has at least started the process of erecting a barbed-wire fence all along the border is an admission, however half-hearted, that illegal infiltration is taking place. But there is growing evidence that the scale of such trans-border traffic is becoming more alarming. The Government has not cared to come out with proof to the contrary. Indeed, it is hard put to doing any such thing after the recent deletion of nearly 1.5 lakh Bangladeshis' names from the electoral rolls in the national capital itself. This action was a sequel to the BJP's campaign against the casualness with which the Government has so far dealt with this question.

It has apparently not occurred either to the Congress government at the Centre or the Left Front government of West Bengal that if as many as 1.5 lakh foreigners could remain undetected in one metropolis for a long time, hundreds of thousands must have already crossed the West Bengal-Bangladesh border and must be living in the eastern states or elsewhere. How is it that the ruling parties in New Delhi and Calcutta are yet to realise that this involves a grave threat to the country's integrity? Will the traumatic experience of Assam where the Congress and the Communists had similarly chosen to ignore the threat posed by unchecked infiltration from Bangaldeshis be repeated in other states before long? This is the danger which the BJP has rightly sought to highlight. On this issue at least, the Congress-Communist bid to accuse the BJP of playing communal politics deserves to be condemned strongly. Actually, by

not taking a serious note of the infiltration of Bangladeshis, an overwhelming number of them Muslims, it is the Congress and Communists who have laid themselves open to the charge of communalising a serious national issue. The detection and deportation of aliens must be a non-partisan issue but it is the Government's skewed view of it that threatens to give it a communal complexion. Let the Government come out with a credible strategy to cope with this national problem and convince Parliament that it means business.

Iran

Ministry Rejects 'Baseless Territorial Claims'

LD2204125993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0940 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the irresponsible stance of the Arab League in connection with the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. He said that repeating baseless territorial claims in connection with the Iranian islands are futile and that the adoption of such stances are destructive to the security and stability of the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf.

He said: The raising of vain claims by the United Arab Emirates at various forums does not lessen the illegitimacy of such demands by one iota and does not bring the slightest change to the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran in defense of its own territorial integrity.

He added: With regard to the need for safeguarding security and tranquillity in the region, the situation in Abu Musa is quite normal, as it has always been, and the solution to any possible problem depends on discussions without any kind of preconditions.

Government Releases 200 Iraqi POW's

LD2204140693 Tehran IRNA in English 1247 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran in a humanitarian action unilaterally released 200 Iraqi prisoners of war Thursday.

The POWs were handed over to the Iraqi officials at the western border check-point of Khosrawi.

In February, Iran also set free another 1,000 Iraqi POWs and repatriated them to their home country.

The war prisoners had been taken captive by the Iranian forces during the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war.

Despite such humanitarian actions on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq has so far refused to reciprocate the Iranian moves.

A spokeman for the war prisoner commission in Iran, meanwhile, expressed hope that the release of the latest batch of the Iraqi POWs would motivate international organizations and Baghdad to take a positive step and free the Iranian POWs.

Hit Squads Reportedly in France, Germany

PM2204134793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Opposition Talks of Assassination Squads' Arrival in France and Germany"]

[Excerpt] Paris, Bonn, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iranian opposition sources abroad yesterday indicated that Tehran has sent at least two assassination squads to France and Germany to liquidate a number of oppositionists who live there and are opposed to the Iranian regime.

A number of Iranian oppositionists emphasized that they have been told by the police in both Germany and France to take precautions against assassination attempts which could be carried out against them by squads which Tehran has sent to these two countries for this purpose.

According to these sources, the "assassination list" includes a number of members of the shah's family, Mojahedin-e Khalq representatives, and at least four prominent Iranian writers and poets living in these two countries.

The French police advised a group of Iranian oppositionists to to postpone a meeting they used to hold once every two weeks in a Paris restaurant until further notice. French and German police organs declined to deny or confirm this news. A police source in Bonn said "issues like these should not be discussed publicly." [passage omitted]

Majles Passes Nuclear Cooperation Accords

NC2304132793 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 14 Apr 93 p 2

[Excerpts] The Islamic Majles has approved cooperation accords on the peaceful use of nuclear energy to be signed by the Iranian Government and the governments of the Russian Federation and the PRC.

HAMSHAHRI's correspondent said that yesterday's open session of Majles deputies chaired by Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri approved a bill on separate accords.

A majority approved the bill on the nuclear cooperation agreement with the PRC, but many deputies opposed an agreement on nuclear cooperation with Russia before it was approved. [passage omitted]

The bill for an Iranian-Russian cooperation agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, approved by the government nearly six months ago, includes fundamental research and its application in the use of nuclear energy, research on safety in nuclear power stations,

radiological [in English as published] and nuclear safety, and the production and use of isotopes. [last word in English]

Similarly, this agreement envisages the planning, construction, and utilization of nuclear research reactors and nuclear power stations, the production of components and the material needed for nuclear reactors, and research in laser production technology and application.

The Iranian-PRC accord, which President Hashemi-Rafsanjani signed during his visit to the PRC last year, in addition to the cooperation in various fields stipulated in the agreement with Russia, incorporates exploration and extraction of uranium ore and production and procurement of rods for nuclear fuel used in nuclear power stations.

The Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO], the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry, and the PRC National Nuclear Company will sign the accords, according to which the sides will adopt measures to take all the precautionary steps necessary to safeguard the confidentiality of information, including industrial and commercial secrets [asrar] in the agreement.

At the same session, Majles deputies also approved a bill to approve a resolution amending Article 6 of the Islamic Conference Organization. [passage omitted]

Humanitarian Aid Sent To Azerbaijan

LD2204174093 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan Prov.), April 22, IRNA—Some 100 tons of relief aid including foodstuffs and medicine has been sent from this provincial capital to war-stricken Muslims of Azerbaijan Republic.

According to a local Red Crescent official here today the convoy, the first ever relief package from Iran after the recent escalation of clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, is the 15th convoy of humanitarian aid sent from Tabriz to Baku.

Presently 15 war wounded from the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan are undergoing treatment at the Shohada hospital here, and according to the official, the Red Crescent is willing to receive more injured of the Karabakh clashes.

President Receives Senegalese Envoy 22 Apr

LD2204124293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mustafa Seisi, Senegalese presidential adviser on Arab and Islamic Affairs, who carried a written message from his country's president. After submitting the message of his country's president, the Senegalese presidential adviser said the aim of his visit is to discuss cooperation with our country's officials on problems of the world of Islam, particularly in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Karabakh, and other Islamic countries. Senegal currently chairs the Islamic Conference Organization. He also stressed the valuable role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Islamic Conference Organization and called for even more of our country's cooperation in solving problems of the world of Islam.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked him for the Senegalese president's friendly message. Stressing the need for further strengthening the Islamic Conference Organization he said that the Islamic countries should not wait for foreign countries to solve the problems of the Islamic world. Rafsanjani added: Islamic countries should boost their coordination, shun discord, and not follow enemy insinuations. They themselves should take the initiative in dealing with the affairs of Muslims. Finally the president announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness for further cooperation with Islamic countries within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Ambassador to Finland on Relations With Central Asia

LD2204174693 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Vienna, April 22, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Finland Seyyed 'Ali Mahmoudi, in an interview Thursday with Finnish weekly "SUDMEN KUVALEHTI" ' called the relationship between the Islamic republic and Russia "a positive long term strategic cooperation."

Regarding the newly independant states of the former Soviet Union, Mahmoudi said Iran's foreign policy is based on non- intervention. These states can expect political and commercial support of Iran, he added.

On the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ambassador condemned the recent Armenian offensive and hoped for a quick withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories.

Dismissing as "baseless" the accusations of arms supply to Azerbaijan, he said the republic should concentrate on its national unity and resources. Unfortunately, Mahmoudi said, Azerbaijan is engaged with moves to please the Zionist regime.

Even though Western states are trying to minimize Iran's role in Central Asia, Iran enjoys good relationship with Turkey and regional countries, he stressed.

Commentary Criticizes Arab Participation in Talks

LD2204204193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Eventually after five months of stalemate in the Arab- Israeli talks in the wake of the deportation of 415 Palestinians the Arabs have once again announced their agreement on attending the next round of these parleys. This decision was taken following several days of talks among the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and the Palestinian team in Damascus.

At the end of their lengthy deliberations, Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar', addressing a news conference announced the Arabs' agreement to resume the talks scheduled for 27 April. The Arab-Israeli talks have so far gone through eight rounds; and the last round of these talks faced a boycott from the Arabs on account of the deportation of 415 Palestinians by the Zionist regime to South Lebanon.

Of course, this horrid act by Yitzhaq Rabin in deporting 415 Palestinians—considered to be a major figure during the past quarter century—drew the attention of the world people to the anti-human policy pursued by Rabin who had assumed premiership on the contention of offering peace. Also the Palestinians' deportation created problems for the Arab countries participating in the talks, especially the Palestinian team, in further continuing the parleys.

More significantly, the Tel Aviv regime's disregard for UN Security Council Resolution 799 which had called for an immediate and unconditional repatriation of all the Palestinians to their homeland, too, made the Arabs increasingly cognizant of the fact that there did not exist any guarantee for the enforcement of the resolutions that denounce Israel.

Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, in the course of his visit to Egypt last week, in a propaganda maneuver as a concession to the Arabs for drawing them to the negotiating table, said that he was willing to negotiate with the Arabs on the basis of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, but would not agree to withdraw from the entire lands occupied in 1967. In fact, mooting of this issue by Rabin only depicts the reality that the Israeli officials in utter disregard of international regulations and resolutions believe that they can interpret and implement the Security Council resolutions, too, within the framework of their own desire and will.

It is in consideration of this very issue that the nonenforcement of Resolutions 799, despite the lapse of five months since the deportation of the Palestinians has made the Arabs and the world people increasingly aware of the fact that other UN Security Council resolutions too will have the same fate as is faced by Resolution 799.

Despite all the obstacles in the way of the resumption of the negotiations, the Arabs have now announced their readiness to once again attend the negotiations. in fact, despite the stalemate of several months in the talks and in spite of the so-called green signals and flexible moves when the Zionist regime under the pressure of the intifadah popular uprising coupled with all the endeavors made by the United States for the resumption of the parleys, these negotiations still face some major obstacles. For several weeks the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been besieged by the Israeli troops and the unprecedented severity being shown by the Israeli military men has now reached such a level that these regions have been declared as militarily sealed areas for an indefinite period.

At the same time, the tragic condition of 400 Palestinians in the mountains of South Lebanon too has been focusing the attention of the world people on this human catastrophe which remains unresolved.

Meanwhile, various Palestinian groups have already denounced the Arabs decision to attend the next round of negotiations with the usurper Israeli regime.

According to the spokesman of the Palestinian deportees, this disregard of the deportees issue is viewed as a treason to the ideal and nation of Palestine which will definitely be responded to by the intifadah in an appropriate manner.

Rebels: Bukan Residents Kill 'Hireling' Governor

NC2304055493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] On 17 April, Bukan Governor Sadeqi was attacked and killed by the residents of Bukan. A day before his death, Sadeqi attended a meeting and spoke strongly against the Kurdish people's movement, the Kurdish people's aspirations and goals, and the Kurdish people's leader: the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran. He thereby enraged the people of Bukan, who carried out their heroic attack on the traitor and punished him for his criminal deeds.

After the killing of the hireling governor, the regime's forces took to the streets and arrested a large number of the area's youth. We have received the names of two of the arrested people: Esma'il Namazi and Sadiq Abdi.

Obviously the duty of the combatant masses of Bukan, in view of their proud past, is to do all they can to free the youth being kept in the prisons of the antipopular clerical regime and take serious steps to secure their release by expressing their hate and aversion to the antipopular acts perpetrated by the clerical murderers.

Editorial Discusses Single-Parity Rate Issue

NC2304102693 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Foreign Exchange Fluctuations"]

[Text] Marked fluctuations in the foreign exchange market in the past few days have created an undesirable economic atmosphere in the country, and although it has been commented that certain persons and groups were responsible for the chaotic situation, the president has

reportedly given special instructions to counter the situation at an emergency meeting.

Among the measures which are to be adopted, is the announcement that "rial" the official monetary unit of the country will be a wholly convertible currency, and that foreign exchange can be obtained through the banking systems by people who need them.

The issue of foreign exchange and its peripheral consequences can not be considered merely as economic problems. The experiences of the Eastern Europe and the Latin American countries have demonstrated that foreign exchange is in close relationship with the totality of the social and political problems in any country.

As we had pointed out before, the country's economy is similar to a patient who is in need of a surgical operation, and as always this operation involves certain risks. The prerequisite for success in establishing the one-rate parity system, which is a kind of surgical operation being performed on the country's economy, is the careful and studied implementation of the program. To take an example, about two thirds of the applicants for foreign exchange are government organizations and government affiliated companies in such a way that they will not be applying for foreign exchange all at the same time which will have the effect of creating an inordinate amount of demand for foreign exchange at a certain date. The temporary shortage of foreign exchange to meet all the accumulated demands, may produce a shock effect and a false alarm, which is what seems to have happened in the past few days. As a result of such a situation the government companies and factories may be prompted to import more materials than they need. Such a rush to hoard materials, in anticipation of rising prices and as a means of beating competitors, may in turn lead to further deterioration of the foreign exchange market situation. This is a serious mistake, as the sudden and inordinate demand will upset the entire foreign exchange market and will make it difficult for the economic planners to arrive at an accurate estimation of the country's foreign exchange requirements.

Rate Policy Questioned

NC2304103593 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 15 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "What About the Economy?"]

[Text] It was Black Sunday in our country's financial markets. The rial crashed further against foreign currencies and was traded for 1,830 to the greenback. The Iranian currency recovered slightly in the following three days, but considerable damage had been done to the government's monetary policies.

The rial's terrific fall came less than two weeks after Central Bank governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli officially announced the going into effect of the single rate foreign exchange. When chaos ruled the market in the past few days and the rial shrunk a further 20 percent below its official floating value (rials 1,542=$1), the CBI [Central Bank of Iran] chief called a hurriedly arranged press conference to control the damage.

Declaring that each person can buy up to $5,000 from the banks at floating rates as of yesterday, 'Adeli was quoted as saying that "our foreign exchange regime is a regulated floating rate and the control mechanism is at work..."

It is extremely difficult for us to comprehend what "control" the country's highest banking authority was talking about. Over the months, despite repeated government assurances that everything is moving systematically, we have witnessed the CBI's failure to define a clear policy on foreign exchange mechanisms. The public at large and prospective investors are literally in the dark knowing almost nothing about what awaits them and their capital.

Few take CBI pronouncements or its policy initiatives seriously for the simple reason that it actually devalued the national currency by 95 percent in the New Year but did not care to admit it nor tell the people what lies in store for them. There is no doubt that 'Adeli is the main architect of the existing foreign exchange policies but he has never explained how he intends to implement it in the present volatile economic conditions in which the gap between the haves and have nots is expanding.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's economic advisers are apparently those who know what they are doing or else they would just not be in his administration. But the manner in which economic difficulties of the common people have multiplied in the past 2-3 years, has given rise to serious doubts whether that advice is in tune with the reality on the ground. There is ample reason to believe that it is not. Suffice to say that 14 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, for large numbers of our salaried people making ends meet is a serious challenge.

Of course, our people have the right to question the efficiency and skills of senior economic policymakers. The government may emphasize that everything is being done to protect the vulnerable groups in the process of implementing its much-publicized economic reforms. The undeniable truth, however, is that goods and services have become more expensive and the purchasing power of the same vulnerable groups has dropped sharply. The wild fluctuations in the foreign exchange markets have further added insult to injury.

It seems that on the economic platform everyone is in charge but no one is responsible. The president's choice of men in his next administration will be as important as the survival of the economy.

Pakistan

Mazari: Elections To Be Held as Scheduled

BK2204154293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Another 16 ministers, one minister of state and two advisers, have been included in the Federal Cabinet. All ministers and advisers, except for one federal minister and one minister of state, were sworn in by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the President's House in Islamabad this afternoon. Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari was also present on the occasion. [passage omitted]

Hussain Haqqani has been appointed as the special assistant to the prime minister. He will enjoy the status of a minister of state. The portfolios of the new ministers will be announced later.

Talking to newsmen after the swearing-in ceremony, the prime minister reiterated that general elections will be held on 14 July in accordance with the president's announcement. He said the induction of new ministers in the Cabinet reflects the government's desire to work. The portfolios of new ministers will be announced soon. He said the inclusion of the new ministers will lessen the burden of the government. He said he will further expand the Cabinet, if necessary. Radio Pakistan's correspondent says that this is the first time in the history of the country that persons representing such wide and diverse political ideologies have been included in the Cabinet, which reflects national reconciliation, understanding, and unity.

Mazari Comments on Government Priorities

BK2304030293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has said that the holding of a free and fair election, restoring law and order, ending political confrontation, a commitment to objectivity and honesty are the priorities of his government. Addressing the first meeting of the cabinet in Islamabad last night, he said that we will give the nation a clean government. The cabinet decided to continue the free economic environment and the policy of a market economy. The cabinet said that the country is passing through a most severe economic and political crisis, unprecedented in the past. The cabinet, which met soon after the swearing-in of the new ministers, authorized Finance Minister Farooq Ahmad Leghari to explain the government's economic policies at a news conference in Islamabad today.

The prime minister has given the portfolio of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to Federal Minister Maulana Kausar Niazi.

Political Leaders Welcome New Cabinet, Government

BK2304030493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] A number of political leaders have welcomed the new federal cabinet and described it as a symbol of national consensus. They said that new ministers are prominent politicians and are fully capable of dealing with the present political situation in the country with their extensive experience. Appreciating the wide-base of the cabinet, they said that it augurs well for democracy. They felt that the cabinet will work for the service of the people and the progress of the nation. The leaders who welcomed the new cabinet include Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed, secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party; Acting Speaker of the Sindh assembly Sardar Ata Mohammad Murree; and leader of the opposition in the Punjab assembly Rana Ikram Rabbani.

Nearly 175 members belonging to the Muslim League in the Punjab assembly have announced their support for Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari. A group of members of the provincial assembly, talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN yesterday, said that they had decided to support the prime minister in order to protect the endangered democratic system.

Khan, Bhutto Discuss Provincial Assemblies

BK2204092193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—In a bid to overcome the deadlock over the dissolution of provincial assemblies which has persisted ever since the Nawaz Sharif government was sacked, Benazir Bhutto had her second meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Wednesday.

The deadlock persists because unless the provincial assemblies are dissolved the process of completing the cabinet will remain stalled. In this regard the Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari had two meetings with Benazir Bhutto, the second meeting took place after Benazir's meeting with the President.

According to Presidential sources, "Ghulam Ishaq Khan is not dissolving the Punjab Assembly because he says that he has no legal ground to do so. He has apprehensions that a stay can be taken from the court if reasons for dissolution are not within the ambit of the constitution."

The President told Benazir Bhutto once again on Wednesday that her party was free to nominate its man for the post of governor for Punjab. But the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] feels that this would be useless unless the promise of dissolution of the Punjab Assembly is carried out.

NDA's [National Democratic Alliance] Mustafa Jatoi, while backing Benazir, said, "There is a stalemate which should be resolved quickly because it is damaging

national interest. The PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], NDA, and the Islamic Jamhoori Mahaz are all for the dissolution. It is now up to Ghulam Ishaq Khan to do so quickly."

Legal teams, one formed by the Presidential camp and the other headed by PPP's Tariq Rahim spent a busy day on Wednesday trying to figure out a constitutional way to dissolve the four provisional assemblies. The President held meetings with former parliamentarians and Senators where his decision to dissolve the National Assembly and the fate of provincial assemblies were discussed threadbare.

Meanwhile, Prime Miniser Balkh Sher Mazari also spent the entire day in meetings with different delegations. Of importance was his meeting with the head of Muslim League (Functional) group. According to government sources, Fir Pagaro told Mazari that he was not ready to see the Sindh Assembly dissolved. Most of the Sindh MPAs [Members of Provincial Assemblies], apart from those belonging to PPP, are either backed by Pagaro or Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. It would not suit Pagaro to see a provincial government headed by the PPP oversee the July elections. Also, if Ghulam Ishaq Khan seeks another term in office, Muzaffar Shah would guarantee him the required votes. Shah himself is also reportedly unwilling to step down.

In the NWFP [North West Frontier Province], Mir Afzal has told the President that he was ready to dissolve the assembly if the three others also did the same. In fact he said that if Sindh, Balochistan and the NWFP assemblies were dissolved this would put pressure on the Punjab to follow suit.

Meanwhile, in the PPP camp, Benazir Bhutto remained closeted in meetings throughout the day, and even missed the reception at the British High Commission which she usually makes it a point to attend if she is in the town. She held several meetings with her nominee in the cabinet, Farooq Leghari. Her camp says, "We don't understand what is happening." According to sources close to her, the PPP is getting impatient with the delay in dissolving the provincial assemblies.

One of her close confidences said, "Our point is that some commitments were made to us upon which we were very clear." The inference to Ghulam Ishaq Khan having promised Benazir Bhutto dissolution in their first meeting is quite clear. Before this her right hand man Farooq Leghari also had detailed meeting with the President. The source added, "Dissolution is a requisite for fair free elections. If this government of national consensus cannot assure this then we cannot have fair and free polls. There should be a bipartisan approach."

This is important for the PPP because it is the Muslim League which is heading governments in all the four provinces. When questioned why Ghulam Ishaq Khan is dragging his feet on the dissolution factor he replied, "Some one is giving him the wrong advice. But the PPP hopes that saner elements would prevail upon him. Some of our people are meeting him in this regard."

When asked whether the President was interested in keeping these assemblies because they could vote him back into the Alwan-e-Sadar [Presidential Palace], our source commented. "That will make his case very weak. In fact his case is strengthened if he dissolves these assemblies."

Meanwhile in the government camp, the Muslim League minister, Hamid Nasir Chatha is leaving for Sindhri on Thursday to attend the 'chehlum' [ritual held every 40-days after a person's death] of Mohammad Khan Junejo. "We are closely monitoring the situation in the Punjab," he said.

Bhutto Demands Army 'Completely Control' July Polls

BK2304124393 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Islamabad, April 22—Ms Benazir Bhutto, co-chairman PPP [Pakistan People's Party] on Thursday demanded of the President to hold general election under the control of the army so that slightest doubts about rigging could be prevented.

"The army must control and conduct forthcoming election and that it should not be only asked to supervise it," she further said.

Speaking at a news conference at her residence in the Capital, she pointed out that Pakistan has not a very good track record of having fair and free elections in the past "That is why we are demanding from the President to allow the army to completely control July 14 polls."

Ms Bhutto also demanded of the president to immediately dissolve the provincial assemblies to allow the holding of free and fair elections.

"If these assemblies are not packed up there is an ample chance of rigging in the election," she believed.

Asked if President Ghulam Ishaq Khan did not accept here demand of dissolving the assemblies she said, "We would then pullout ourselves from the caretaker government."

She was of the view that the President must accept this demand which was primarily made by the All Party Conference (APC). She told a reporter that Chief Minister Sindh was opposing the dissolution because he could not get himself elected if fair elections were held.

Responding to a question former premier said she would oppose the initiation of criminal cases against deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. "We should not give signal to the international world that we prosecute our prime ministers when they are no more in power."

She said that politics of vendetta and prosecution must come to an end and courts should investigate charges

against the politicians. If anybody has violated the law he must face genuine courts and not the hand picked special tribunals," she added.

Answering a question Ms Bhutto pointed out that if there would be some electoral alliance between PML [Pakistan Muslim League] (Chatha group) and the People's Party, it could effectively give tough time to Nawaz Sharif in Punjab.

She did not agree to a questioner that she would have to face a new political challenge after her husband Asif Zardari took oath in the new cabinet. She said Asif has his own political role and he must play that role effectively even if he has to join the cabinet.

Answering another question she said she was opposed to selective accountability of the politicians. Ms Bhutto said people should face fair trial if they had curtain charges against them.

The PPP Co-Chairman said her party believed that the forthcoming election will be held within 90 days and that the caretaker government would not seek their postponement in any case.

"It would be difficult for us to continue supporting the government in case elections are not held within 90 days," she said adding that they should not provide us any excuses to pull out of the cabinet.

Asked whether she has demanded that the motorway project be shelved she said she was not opposed to the building of roads. She was of the view that the motorway project was not justified project at all. "To spend billions of rupees for a small sector of the economy is not something commendable." She further asked who was going to pay Rs 500 for one trip to Lahore.

Moreover, Ms. Bhutto said, there were reports of big corruption in the Motorway project for which it was necessary to probe the issue by the concerned authorities.

Talking about the 8th Amendment she denied that she has ever betrayed Nawaz Sharif over this issue. "How could he say that I have taken a U-turn regarding 8th Amendment. At least he should not say like that because he himself is the beneficiary of the 8th Amendment."

"Nawaz Sharif has not presented any draft or bill for repealing this controversial amendment," she said adding that he just wanted to gain some political advantage by talking about the 8th Amendment. They had ever sincere about it they [sentence indistinct].

Answering another question the PPP co-chairman said she was not happy over the sacking of Nawaz Sharif government. People were disillusioned over the repeated dismissals of the government. Only in a period of 5 years three assemblies were dissolved and how could I express any happiness over it."

"I am not jubilant and thrilled over the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif government," Benazir Bhutto said.

Commenting on former attorney general and PPP Senator Yahya Bakhtiar's statement she said she had a lot of respect for him but added that he should not have criticised here.

She said if at all he had anything against her, he should have attended the party's Central Council meeting and presented his point of view there. "But I would ask Yahya Bakhtiar to first resign from the senatorship which he got because of being in PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] and then [words indistinct].

Senate Opposition Leader Criticizes Bhutto

BK2204095993 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Quetta, April 21—The leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Yahya Bakhtiar, has strongly denounced the dissolution of National Assembly and criticised Ms Benazir Bhutto for supporting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan [GIK] in this connection.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the central leader of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], said that Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, with the connivance of Ms Benazir Bhutto, had delivered a second deadly blow a the parliament and democracy in Pakistan under the reprehensible Eighth Amendment.

He said "it seems that at last two like-minded persons have joined hands to advance their personal interests at the expense of the welfare of the poor people of the country".

Senator Yahya Bakhtiar, condemning the President, said that he had an intense dislike for representative institutions, elected Parliament, Independent judiciary and democracy generally and the PPP [Pakistan Peoples Party] particularly, and he had served all the military dictators in Pakistan with dedication and devotion.

Lashing at Ms Benazir Bhutto, the leader of Opposition in the Senate said that her lip-service for democracy and representative Assemblies could hardly mislead any sensible person.

He said that in spite of his repeated appeals and requests, she avoided holding of election in the party. He said: She has been in actual control and command of this premier political party for the past 14 years or so. She, however, does not want democracy and elections within the party but repeatedly asked for the same in the country.

Senator Bakhtiar said he asked Ms Benazir in 1986 to hold party elections, assuring her that no one wanted to deprive her or Begum Nusrat Bhutto of the party leadership but she refused saying that she would hold election only up to district level.

He said he had resigned in protest from all the offices in the party to which he was appointed by the Chairman Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto along with Sheikh Rashid and Makhdoom Talibul Maula, as President PPP Balochistan and member central committee and central executive committee.

Mr Bakhtiar said, PPP workers and leaders who had made great sacrifices for the cause of democracy against martial laws were treated by her with contempt or simply ignored. The result is that in her nominated central executive, inspite of some good people, no one dare to oppose her decisions said [sentence as published].

Mr Yahya Bakhtiar said that unfortunately however, she is incapable of taking any correct political decision in national interest or for the cause of poor people in Pakistan.

He said her latest move to call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and persuade him to dissolve the National Assembly (and also Provincial Assemblies) and dismiss an elected Government under the Eighth Amendment is an act of blatant betrayal of the people, of democracy and Pakistan.

He said the same Eighth Amendment was used by the same President in 1990 against her government, National and provincial assemblies who filed six or seven references against her on serious charges of corruption and maladministration, tortured PPP workers leaders, and imprisoned her husband for over two years.

Senator Bakhtiar said: "for achieving removal of Nawaz Sharif Government which she has been demanding for about two years she could have adopted constitutional and democratic methods and not through the Eighth Amendment". He said if the elections had been rigged (and this rigging was attributed by herself to GIK when she shouted at him "Baba go", "Baba go" in National Assembly in December (1990) there were again legal and constitutional remedies for that also.

But for Ms Benazir action against her and her ministry under the Eighth Amendment was illegal, mala fide and unconstitutional and ordered us to challenge it in High Courts and the Supreme Court but now for similar action she has called for against Nawaz Sharif and his Government under the same reprehensible Eighth Amendment and calls it "legal", "moral" and "constitutional".

He said he had repeatedly appealed to her in public satements and begged her not to ask GIK to use the immoral and hated Eighth Amendment but she did not care.

Mr Bakhtiar charged that Ms Benazir Bhutto offered her support to President Ishaq [Khan] in the commission of this crime against the people and demoracy.

He said. "This is rank opportunism on her part to achieve a temporary political objective for personal aggrandisement. By this action, she has caused serious damage to Pakistan to democracy and the People's Party and more than anything else to herself. She is no longer a national leader, but a controversial politician whereas Nawaz Sharif in spite of his numerous weaknesses has emerged a national hero and leader.

"As far as Ghulam Ishaq Khan is concerned, violations of the constitution are numerous. He not only has to be impeached (by the National Assembly which I am confident will be restored soon and the Senate) but also tried for high treason under Article 5 of the Constitution", he concluded.

ISI Director Removal Rumors 'Baseless'

BK2304131393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi—Attention of the informed sources was drawn to a news item orginating from New Delhi and creeping into national press that Lieutenant General Javed Nisar, director general [DG] Inter Services Intelligence [ISI], has been removed from office.

These sources dismissed the report as totally baseless and said, Lt General Javed Nisar as DG ISI gave a detailed briefing on the overall situation to the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, only Wednesday.

Reportage of Sharif 'Political' Train Trip

Predicts New Government Collapse

BK2204094393 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Apr 93 pp 1, 13

[Text] Lahore, April 21—Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday called on the President Ishaq Khan to step down because the people had not accepted his undemocratic actions.

"This is the writing on the wall and people from Khyber to Karachi, who have taken to streets like a storm, are not going to forgive him for his act against the democratic institutions", he told newsmen accompanying him in his first ever political train journey.

Appearing jubilant over a big response from the people during the journey, Nawaz Sharif said he would tour all the provinces to mobilise public opinion against what be termed as a conspiracy against democracy. "The President has perhaps no idea about the sentiment of the people and he (The President) was also ignorant about the fact how popular we are because of our performance in the government; had he known this reality he would not have taken the step (of dissolving the National Assembly)", he said and added that the response of the people was an expression of no-confidence against the President.

Mian Nawaz Sharif was confident that the present set-up (the national government) could never work and the Central government would be lacking the harmony that

was required to run the national affairs. "Very soon the system will collapse and its creater will also go with it", he added.

The former Prime Minister said a clique of four people was playing with the destiny of the country. His struggle was against them and for the restoration of democracy. He was of the view that his "movement" would augur well for the country and without that the future of democracy would have been in serious jeopardy. "What I am doing is to serve and promote democracy and fight out those who are conspirating against it", was his answer in reply to a question. Asked whether his move was to invite another Martial Law in the country, he said "that is a lie".

Asked as to what he specifically meant when he talked of doing away with the Eighth Constitutional Amendment, Nawaz Sharif said he wanted to retain its good aspects and do away with the provisions that were derogatory to the growth of healthy democracy. It was in the national interest that parliamentary democracy was strengthend in real terms, he added.

Asked whether he would seek the support of other political parties for the objective, he said his party would seek cooperation of all those who were with his government. Besides, he would also seek cooperation from "like-minded" parties. In reply to a question, he said he would not cooperate with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] in any case. "We have not sought the PPP support in the past and do not intend to do so in future".

However, said the former Prime Minister, if the goal of his party and that of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] happened to be common in future, he would first try to find out the motive of PPP. Nevertheless, he agreed that friends and foes in politics were never permanent.

Nawaz Sharif was critical of the behaviour of PPP in supporting those "elements" who had treated it like the way he has now been treated. Is this the principled stand that the PPP leaders had been trumpeting for long, he asked Ms Benazir Bhutto. "Why have they (the PPP) joined hands in murdering the democratic order, he added [no end quote as published].

Asked about his response if he was made to face charges, he said he was not afraid of cases and references. "Bring 10 false cases and references but I am not to be deterred because the people are with me". He hoped that his party would return to the National Assembly with a bigger majority.

For Nawaz Sharif the first taste of being in the opposition camp was "a good experience". He said he had led many election campaigns in the past but he was witnessing for the first time what he had been lacking so far. "The way the people have showered their love on me and showed determination to support me in my struggle is what is lasting; it is the most precious asset and I have deeply been moved. He said the people had come to receive him voluntarily; similarly the strikes were also spontaneous" [quotation mark as published]. What would happen if he issued a call, he said and added that the country would feel rocked.

After Jhelum milling crowd mobbed the train at every railway station where Awam Express, in which Mian Nawaz Sharif and his former cabinet colleagues and ex-MNA's [members of National Assembly] and MPAs [members of Provincial Assemblies] were travelling, carrying Sharif's portraits, banners and flags of the [Pakistan] Muslim League [PML] which he is now heading.

About 25 percent of the crowd comprised women.

People were seen crying and some praying for Nawaz Sharif's return to power. They were chanting slogans "Forward Nawaz we are with you." Banners hung in a large number at every railway station read with the slogans: "Enemy of democracy, enemy of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan" and "Our caravan will not stop now".

While scores were perched stop surounding buildings platforms were literally jam packed with slogan raising people. At every station former federal minister Ejazul Haq appeared first to tell the people that their leader was to address them. Similar scenes of enthusiastic and responsive people were witnessed at Jhelum, Sarai Alamgir (when the people blocked the track to stop the train), Lala Musa, Kharian Cantonment, Gujrat, Wazirabad, Gujranwala and Kamoko. Flower petals were showered on Nawaz Sharif everywhere.

The train stopped for about half an hour at Jhelum where it normally stops for only three minutes. Likewise, it delayed departure from Gujrat and Gujnanwala where the crowd was the biggest. At Gujrat the train was stopped about one kilometre out of the main railway station. Later the train crawled to the platform. Invariably the people outside rushed and mobbed the compartment (AC Lower) in which Mian Nawaz Sharif and his colleagues were travelling. A large number of people travelled atop the over- crowded compartments.

Chaudhary Shujat Hussain got down at Gujrat. Other former ministers accompanying the deposed Prime Mknister were Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Raja Nadir Parwez, Makhdum Javed Hashemi, Alam Hoti, Peter John Sohorra, Nisar Ahmad Khan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and the Deputy Speakers of the dissolved National Assembly Haji Nawaz Khokhar. A team of local and foreign journalists accompanied him.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan might have misjudged the potential of Mian Nawaz Sharif becoming a popular leader after the dissolution of the National Assembly and sacking of his government as he demonstrated during his first train journey as an opposition man when thousands of emotionally charged people thronged the railway sations en route chanting slogans "Down with the President".

The deposed Prime Minister's speech of April 17 that caused the fall of the PML government, the great response which Mian Nawaz Sharif received during the eight-hour journey from Rawalpindi to Lahore. For the first time the Muslim League supporters were seen in a defiant mood.

Emboldened by the warm reception the former Prime Minister had been telling the enthusiastic crowd that the dissolution of the National Assembly and sacking of his government was a conspiracy against the country and democracy. "We have to eliminate these conspirators; we have to get rid of the enemies of Pakistan. [no end quotation mark as published]

'Highly Responsive' Crowd in Jhelum

BK2204094993 Karachi DAWN in English 22 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 21—Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif received a warm response from crowds of about 7,000 between Rawalpindi and Jhelum railway stations, on way to his hometown Lahore.

Mian Nawaz Sharif began his journey to Lahore on board 14-Down Awam Express, along with a large number of his sacked cabinet colleagues and some members of the dissolved assembly. He drew encouraging crowds at Sohawa, Gujar Khan and Jhelum.

The crowd at all the stations was charged with emotion. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was the main target of the wrath of the people. Anti-Ishaq Khan slogans were raised all the way. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Khan kept repeating highly insulting slogans whenever the train made brief stopovers.

—Qadam Barhao Nawaz Sharif Hum Tumhare Sath Hain. (Nawaz Sharif take an initiative, we are with you) was the other slogan raised repeately.

"I have already taken the initiative and now it is up to you to support me," said Nawaz Sharif in his brief address from his compartment at the Jhelum railway station. He did not get down at Jhelum where elaborate arrangements were made for a public meeting at the platform.

According to local Senator Raja Afral, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed did not let Nawaz Sharif get down at the station even though the train stopped there for quite some time.

The large number of people waiting for the speech at the platform had to contend with a glimpse of the deposed prime Minister.

Local workers and leaders of Muslim League at the station had set up a make shift dais at a truck adorned with a huge portrait of Nawaz Sharif.

The show put up at the Jhelum Railway station was very impressive compared to the send off at the Rawalpindi railway station.

In Rawalpindi District all the five members of the sacked assembly are siding with Nawaz Sharif group besides the members of provincial assembly and municipal committee Rawalpindi.

Mayor Rawalpindi City Agha Abdul Rasheed Jillani and a number of councilors from Rawalpindi Municipal Corporation were on board the train.

Shops and markets remained partially closed earlier in the day on strike calls given by the pro Nawaz associations. However, as the day progressed, most of the shop keepers opened their shutters and normal business was restored.

In Gujar Khan the city was quite normal with no sign of a strike. In Jhelum the traders community responded to the strike call and also showed their presence at the railway station. Banners and placards at the station reflected the support of the business community to the former industrialist prime minister.

"President Ishaq Khan has caused grave damage to the interest of the country by sacking the government," said Nawaz Sharif at the Jhelum railway station. Amidst slogans of Wazir-i-Azam Nawaz Sharif he said that he would stage a come back with the support of the people.

"Love of the masses is a great wealth for Nawaz Sharif", he said to the cheering crowd which was highly responsive.

Nawaz Sharif repeatedly asked from the cheering crowd whether they would support him in the fight against anti-state and anti- Islam elements.

"We have to go a long way, would you go along", he asked the crowd, which promptly responded.

The train reached Jhelum at the scheduled time.

Sharif Supporters Close Stock Exchange as Protest

BK2204155093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 22 Apr 93

[By Masood Shah]

[Excerpts] KARACHI, April 22 (AFP)—The Karachi Stock Exchange was effectively closed Thursday as brokers protested the dismissal of prime minister Nawaz Sharif, but a call for a commercial strike was meeting only a sputtering response across Pakistan. Officials at the KSE said the exchange was officially opened, but only a few brokers turned up in the morning and trading could not be sustained.

"The managing committee of the stock exchange met and decided not to declare a strike, but there was no business," said an official.

The KSE index dropped a record 36.98 on Monday as businessmen reacted negatively to the dismissal of

Sharif, who had pursued pro- market policies of deregulation and denationalisation.

The official said the exchange managers made the decision to keep the KSE open officially because they realised they had to deal with the new interim government. [passage omitted]

The brokers were answering a call by the president of the national Chambers of Commerce, who called Wednesday for a nationwide strike for Thursday by shop owners and brokers. The business strike was not total. Although traffic was very thin in usually bustling Karachi, several shops were open.

The strike was also observed only partially in Lahore, Sharif's home town and capital of Punjab Province, where Sharif arrived by train late Wednesday to a thunderous welcome from tens of thousands of supporters. [passage omitted]

Sharif told AFP he would fight the president's action through the courts and in elections called for July 14, which will be contested by his Pakistan Muslim League. He said he did not need support from the military or from foreign governments, adding that "the pressure of the people of Pakistan is more than enough."

"This is a turning point in the history of this country, and democracy for the first time can take root," he said. "The armed forces of Pakistan realise this. They are very conscious of this. It is a healthy sign."

Democratically-elected governments have repeatedly been overturned by the military throughout Pakistan's short history.

Sharif said Ishaq Khan's decision to dismiss the government and the national assembly sent "the wrong signals" to foreign investors.

Egyptian Team Arrives To Discuss Detained Arabs

BK2204105993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—A four-member Egyptian investigation team has arrived in Pakistan to go through the list of Egyptian nationals arrested by the Pakistan authorities during the ongoing campaign against foreigners in Peshawar.

The team led by an Egyptian army general arrived in the federal capital a few days ago and held talks with the Federal Secretary for Interior Jamshed Burki, some officials in the Foreign Ministry and Home Department in the [Northwest] Frontier Province.

The Egyptian investigation team which visited Peshawar a couple of days ago are scheduled to hold another round of meeting with the government officials to check through the antecedents of the Egyptians arrested during campaign against Arabs illegally staying in Pakistan. The Foreign Ministry has reportedly asked the department concerned to provide all the relevant record including the photographs of the Egyptians rounded up so far. "We are cooperating with them and we have told them that we were together in this (Afghan) issue and we have got nothing to do with their internal squabbling in Egypt" remarked a government official.

Husni Mubarak had in a recent interview with THE NY TIMES blamed the Afghan veterans for the trouble in his country. Official statistics put the number of Egyptians at 1142 out of the total number of 6170 Arabs in Pakistan. Though Arabs in Peshawar contest the figure, who claim their number is not more than 1000.

Most Arabs, they say, have either gone to Algeria or Sudan or had gone to Bosnia to participate in the 'holy war' against Serbs. "Most of us are frustrated with the internal wrangling between Hekmatyar and Rabbani, is this what we fought for?" asked an Arab living in Peshawar for a long time. He, however, was sceptical that Pakistan would 'try' to extradite the Egyptians to their country. First because Pakistan does not have any extradition treaty with Egypt and second the government could not withstand pressure from the 'fundamentalist' Jamaat-i-Islami.

An official, however, said the matter regarding extradition or externment was still under the government's consideration and a decision in this regard would be taken in due course of time. "We are really keen on removing the false impression being created against Pakistan by the world media" said an official.

It was earlier reported that the Egyptian government had formally asked the Pakistan government to extradite more than a dozen of their expatriates wanted in Egypt on several charges. Among them is said to Mohammad Shawqi Al-Islamboli, leader of the Jamaatul Islami who was reportedly living in Peshawar.

Shawqi Al-Islamboli is the brother of Khalid Al-Islamboli who had assasinated the Egyptian President Anwar Al-Sadaat in 1981. Arab sources in Peshawar said Shawqi, who had arrived in early 1988 to take part in the Afghan Jihad, had left for some Western country in the beginning of the current year. He was last seen with Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] of Golboddin Hekmatyar in Jalalabad a couple of months ago. But a Hezb leader said Shawqi had later moved to Pabbi near Peshawar and was staying with Prof. Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union Party]. A highly placed government official also confirmed that Shawqi was not in Pakistan. "Just point him out and we will arrest him" said the official.

Knowledgeable Arab sources insisting that Shawqi was neither in Pakistan nor in Afghanistan said he preferred to leave the region since in his view the Jihad in Afghanistan was over and there was no reason for him to stay on. "He is a very clever man, he managed to leave Pakistan the same way he had escaped from Egypt" remarked an Arab source.

Shawqi has very strong views against the Egyptian Government and democracy which he considered as Kufr (infidelity) and a mockery of the rule of people. In an interview with a Peshawar based correspondent of an Arabic weekly "AL-WUSAAT", Shawqi had conceded to have visited Afghanistan along with Umar Abdur Rahman and Sheikh Hafiz Salameh in the begining of 1988 to meet the mojahedin leaders. The names of these two persons recently figured in the world media in connection with the World Trade Centre blasts in the U.S. a month ago. In fact the three men had also visited Algeria soon after the elections for the provincial councils there in 1992 and had stayed with Sadiq Abdullah Abdul Majid, a leader of the Islamic Salvation Front which had swept the polls in Algeria.

He had also denied having any links with the Islamic Jihad accused of terrorist activities by the Egyptian government and said his organisation was mainly engaged in propagating and preaching of Islam.

In Shawqi's opinion Jihad was the shortest and effective means to establish religion on the face of the earth, rather than democracy and elections. He had also denied any relations with Iran and termed allegations in this regard as baseless and concocted.

Sixteen New Federal Ministers Named

BK2204142093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Another 16 federal ministers, one minister of state, and two advisers have been added to the federal cabinet. A total of 15 new federal ministers and two advisers took oath of the office at an impressive ceremony at Aiawani-Sadr [president's house] held a short while ago. The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, took the oath. The caretaker prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, was also present in the ceremony.

The federal ministers are:

Mr. Arbab Jahangir Khan

Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani

Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Bugti

Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai

Makdoom Tanvirul Hassan Gilani

Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan

Mr. Asif Ali Zardari [Benazir Bhutto's husband]

Mr. Zahid Sarfaraz

Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan

Mr. Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi

Arbab Ghulam Rahim

Maulana Kauser Niazi

Mr. Mansoor Ahmed Gichki

Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao

Sardar Fateh Mohammad Hasni

Federal Minister Pir Ali Gauhar Shah Rushdie and Minister of State Mr. Kishan Chand Peruwani were not present, and they will be sworn in later. Mr. Roeded Khan and Malik Ghulam Mohammad Nur Rabbani Khar were sworn in as advisers.

Large Foreign Currency Withdrawals 'Strongly' Denied

BK2204151093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] State Bank Governor I.K. Hanafi has strongly denied press reports that large sums of money have been withdrawn from the foreign currency accounts. In a statement issued in Karachi today, he said the actual situation is that during last three days, a total of $146 million was withdrawn whereas $118 million was deposited in the foreign currency accounts. He added that a slight difference in the amounts of deposits and withdrawals on the occasion of hajj pilgrimage is a normal phenomenon, because money is generally withdrawn from the foreign currency accounts on this occasion. He declared that there has neither been any change in the rules and regulations governing the foreign currency accounts nor is such a move under consideration.

Spokesman Rejects Indian Minister's Allegations

BK2204161393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has strongly rejected the Indian home minister's statement in parliament yesterday, in which he stated that inquiries prove that Pakistan was involved in the Bombay bomb blasts in March this year. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that about a week before S.B. Chavan's statement, Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh stated that no proof of Pakistan's involvement in the Bombay bomb blasts had been found. The spokesman said contradictory statements of Indian ministers reflect the fact that certain members of the Indian Government have given preference to leveling false and baseless accusations in order to malign Pakistan and to cover their own deficiencies and shortcomings.

The spokesman said Chavan has not provided any evidence to prove the veracity of his mischievous allegations that Pakistan had prepared the plan to engineer the bomb blasts in Bombay with the cooperation of certain Indian nationals. He reminded that a high- level task force comprising senior officials of the relevant ministries and departments has been set up in Karachi to expedite the pace of inquiries in this connection, and according to the inquiries conducted thus far, no proof of the presence of the Memon family, allegedly involved in the blasts, in Pakistan has been found.

The spokesman said Pakistan has proposed that senior officials of the Interior Ministries of the two countries should hold detailed discussions on this issue. The Indian Government promised at the highest level to respond to the proposal soon, but Islamabad is still waiting for New Delhi's reply. He expressed the hope that the Indian Government will give a positive reply to Pakistan's proposal and also provide all relevant information concerning this incident, so that Pakistan can complete its investigations.

Kazakhstan Assured All Agreements Honored

BK2204145693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has assured Kazakhstan that the new government will honor all the agreements which were signed with the government of Kazakhstan. This was stated by the chairman of Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, in a meeting in Ankara with the Kazakh president, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said that relations between the two countries were deep-rooted in history, common religion, and culture. PTV representative Sarvar Munir Rao reports that during his stay in Turkey, Mr. Wasim Sajjad had meetings with many world leaders and statesmen, including prime minister of Turkey, Mr. Suleyman Demirel; president of Azerbaijan, Mr. Abulfaz Elchibey; president of Albania; foreign minister of Bosnia; and former U.S. Secretary of State Mr. James Baker who had assembled in Ankara for the funeral ceremony.

New Economic Policy One 'of Liberalization'

BK2304112393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The economic policy of the new government will aim at economic liberalization, further reduction of controls and regulations, encouragement of domestic and foreign investments and promotion of domestic savings. Emphasis will be laid on the market- oriented economy and the private sector will be encouraged to play its full role in the economic development of the country. Explaining broad outlines of the economic policy of the new government at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the finance minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, said the framework of the economic policy was approved by the Federal Cabinet at its meeting last night.

He said the fundamental thrust of the policy is to control the budget deficit and improve fiscal position so that the benefits can accrue to the private and public sectors and common man. The finance minister emphasized that the process of privatization was supported by all the constituent parties of the interim government of national reconciliation. It would be carried forward with transparency. He asserted that the stocks of the state-owned units left to be privatized would be widely disbursed so as to mobilize domestic savings and attract foreign investments. The base of stock market would be enlarged to ensure availability of more resources for private sector activities.

The finance minister invited the private sector to come forward in a big way to develop basic infrastructure like power. The minister assured the nation that as a result of the new economic policy, there would be more business activity and foreign investment because of equitable and fair economic environment in the country.

Editorial Views Direction of Economy

BK2204141193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 22 Apr 93 p 6

["Putting economy back on rails"]

[Text] Talking to newsmen, the Federal Finance Minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmed Leghari, categorically declared that the new government would continue to pursue the policy of deregulation and privatisation. However, he added, the privatisation process would be made absolutely transparent and free from kickbacks, nepotism and other irregularities. He emphasised that macro-economics in Pakistan had been badly damaged during the last two and a half years. He said that rate of inflation had reached a double digit due to economic mismanagement by the previous government. "We will ensure that it is again put on the rails," he asserted. He expressed serious doubts about the rate of growth figures given by the dismissed government.

Although economics cannot be separated from politics, it was a misfortune for Pakistan that during Nawaz Sharif regime, the national economy was politicised not in the interest of the people at large but to create an industrial oligarchy in the country. Neither deregulation nor privatisation was the brainchild of the previous government. That deregulation will be the primum mobile of the Sixth Five-Year Plan is underlined in the plan istelf. Privatisation was accepted as an economic creed and put into practice by Benazir Bhutto's government. PIA [Pakistan International Airline] was not only partially privatised but the exercise of privatisation of the Muslim Commercial Bank was completed during her tenure. It took more than 10 years for Thatcher's government in the U.K. to carry out the process of privatisation. Ms Benazir too was quite cautious in implementing the policy of privatisation as it involved other important economic issues. But Mr. Nawaz Sharif accepted privatisation not as a catalyst of economic change, but to oblige his friends and cronies by selling the profit-earning units to them at throw-away prices. It was just like disposing of the family silver without any compunction of conscience. Not only that, the Chairman of the Privatisation Commission is on record as having openly declared that creation of monopolies through the privatisation process was imperative to accelerating the process of industrialisation. The common man has already started tasting the fruit of such privatisation in Pakistan. With the privatisation of cement and ghee

units, the prices of their products have already sky-rocketed, fuelling the rate of inflation. Then no attention was paid to reducing the ever-increasing fiscal deficit. The budgetary deficit is expected to cross all previous records during the current financial year 1992-93. By the end of February last, Nawaz Sharif government had already used credit of over Rs. 90 billion to manage the shortfall in its resources. What the USAID's report said in 1987 that economically Pakistan was existing on borrowed time was never truer than now. This is a challenge to the national economy inherited by the present caretaker government which was merely glossed over by producing cooked statistics during the tenure of the previous regime. The present government should not only reveal the real state of economy to take the people into confidence but also spell out what it proposes to do to redress the wrong done to the economy.

Senate Chairman Returns From Ozal Funeral

BK2304054193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has returned to Islamabad after representing Pakistan at the funeral of the late President Turgut Ozal in Turkey. During his stay in Turkey, he met a number of world leaders and statesmen including Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, and Afghan leader General Rashid Dostam. Talking to the Turkish prime minister, the Senate chairman said that Pakistan has lost a best friend with the death of President Turgut Ozal. Wasim Sajjad assured the Kazakh president that Pakistan will honor all its agreements. He said that relations between the two countries are so deep that they cannot be affected by changes in government. During his meeting with the Senate chairman, the Azerbaijani president thanked the government and people of Pakistan for providing humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan. Afghan leader Rashid Dostam assured Wasim Sajjad that Afghan leaders are making wholehearted effort to maintain peaceful situation in their country and added that they are thankful to Pakistan for bringing various Afghan groups close to each other.

Poppy Crop Destruction 'Expedited'

BK2204105393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] Peshawar—Poppy crop on 658 kanals has been destroyed in Adinzal tohail of Dir district as the administration expedited its efforts to root out the poppy before the harvest season.

The poppy farmer was killed recently in a clash with the law- enforcing agencies is the Adinzal area. The death fuelled tension in the poppy-growing areas and was termed as a sethack for the administration.

Another setback was the armed resistance put up recently against the administration by the farmers in Laram village, again in Adinzal. The villagers fired at the Deputy Commissioner Azmat Hanif Orakzai and other senior adminisration officials who had gone to Laram in the company of Dir-Levies to destroy popy crop in the area.

Stunned by the assault, the administration decided to take a needed action against the culprit and ordered that all the poppy crop be removed by April 27.

In case of refusal, the administration warned that force would be used to destroy the standing poppy crop.

However, political leaders led by Jamaat-i-Islami MPA [member of provincial assembly], Dr Zakirullah and farther PPP [Pakistan People's Party] MPA, Muzaffar Khan, started mediation efforts to convince the farmers to agree to the government demand to destroy the crop.

Following negotiations with the authorities, the growers have allowed the administration to uproot their standing poppy crop in the hope that their major demands pertaining to evelopment schemes in their area would be accepted.

The adminisration is in a hurry as the poppies have already flowered in the Adinzal area and the harvesting is about to begin. The authorities are also trying to destroy the standing poppy crop in the [revenue area] in the area where the ban on poppy cultivation has been enforced.

Karachi Toyota Car Assembly Plant Opens

BK2204151493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan's second biggest car manufacturing plant went into operation in Karachi today. The plant has been established by the Indus Motor Company near Port Qasim at a cost of 2 billion rupees in collaboration with Toyota Motors of Japan. Addressing the opening of the plant, the president of Toyota Motors of Japan, Mr. (Chi Toyoda), said that he will provide full support for the development of local automobile industry in Pakistan. He said that the plant is a symbol of growing Pakistan-Japan economic relations. Later, the plant was formally inaugurated. Initially, 1,300 cc Toyota Corolla would be assembled at the plant. The plant has the capacity of 20,000 cars annually, which would be increased to 40,000 cars per year.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Boycotts Premadasa's Parliament Opening

BK2204165093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0851 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Colombo, April 22 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition Thursday staged a boycott of President

Ranasinghe Premadasa's annual state-of-the nation speech which followed the inauguration of a new session of parliament.

Nearly 80 members of the 100-strong opposition kept away from parliament during Premadasa's 80-minute speech to the legislative assembly after opening its fifth session. The ruling party has 125 MP's.

Opposition members also kept away from the official ceremonies marking the event. They announced that their action was aimed at protesting government policies and its reluctance to devolve power to provincial councils.

Premadasa used the opportunity to attack dissidents in his United National Party (UNP) who were sacked after a failed bid to impeach him in August 1991 and accused the oppposition of trying to retard growth and development.

"They failed in their attempt to impeach the will of the people.... It was a conspiracy to undermine the very same policies which brought these conspirators to office. Today they are attacking these policies.

"They want this country to be taken back to the dark ages. They want to restore autocratic rule," Premadasa said, referring to former national security minister Lalith Athulathmudali who leads a rival political party.

The former minister's Democratic United National Front (DUNF) has emerged as a serious contender in next month's crucial provincial council elections to be held in seven out of the nine provinces in the country.

Premadasa claimed that the opposition had no alternative plan of action for the country and only his policies could improve living conditions of the 17 million population.

"At long last Sri Lanka is now lined up for a smooth take off economically. We are striving to achieve growth with equality. Is there any alternative before the people," he said.

Political analysts say that the UNP would face a serious challenge from the DUNF and an alliance led by former prime minister Sirima Bandaranaike at the forthcoming polls for the country's most important local government bodies.

Premadasa: Economy Poised for 'Smooth Take-Off'

BK2204124993 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Sri Lanka is now lined up for a smooth takeoff economically. The government's objective is to achieve newly industrialized country status by the year 2000. Equity and social justice will be the guiding principles of the new Sri Lankan society. President Ranasinghe Premadasa made this proclamation when he inaugurated the fifth session of the second parliament this morning. Even though Sri Lanka had to face many challenges during the last four years, the country has done extremely well compared with many other countries. The policies have been endorsed by a large majority of the people several times in the recent past. Multilateral and bilateral donor countries and agencies have helped immensely. Foreign and local investors have placed their trust and confidence in the government. The policies and the programs of the government will continue to take the people and the motherland along the path of peace, discipline and prosperity.

The economic policies of the government are aimed at achieving two major objectives. One is to stabilize the economy and the other is to move on to a sustained growth fast. President Ranasinghe Premadasa made this proclamation when he inaugurated the fifth session of the second parliament this morning. Industrial exports have become a primary engine of growth. At present over 65 percent of our exports are industrial products. Garments have taken the lead to be 60 percent of the total export. The total value of exports increased by 50 percent during a two-year period from 1989 to 1991 reaching 84,378 million [no currency given]. The value of industrial exports increased dramatically by 78 percent bringing in 50,736 million rupees in 1991.

The growth of industrial export in 1992 is estimated to be over 25 percent. Domestic savings have risen rapidly during the period of 1989 to 1992. Foreign exchange reserves have risen to record level. External (?assets) have reached almost $1,500 million. The government is making every effort to empower the people economically. The Janasaviya [social welfare] and the 15,000-project program will strengthen them nutritionally and economically. All efforts are being made to increase their income and their buying power.

Second Satellite Earth Station Commissioned

BK2204050893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1609 GMT 21 Apr 93

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—The second satellite earth station in Sri Lanka was commissioned Wednesday [21 April] by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications A.M.S. Adhikari at a ceremony held in Colombo.

He inaugurated the service by telephoning Sri Lanka's high commissioner in the United Kingdom, General Sepala Attygala, followed by Minister of Telecommunications Development Harendra Corea.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Adhikari said that the country has reached another important step towards the telecommunications development by commissioning an IDR digital satellite earth station with the assistance of

British Telecom. The first of this kind, the Padukka satellite earth station is nearly twenty years old but functioning well due to the excellent efforts of local engineers.

It has taken only three months to build and commission the station which is a world record, due to the dedication of the officials of both Sri Lanka Telecom and British Telecom, he said.

"The government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa has accorded high priority to telecommunications sector. Our prime objective is to achieve the status of a newly industrialized nation by the end of this decade. Towards this objective, we have taken important steps to provide modern telecommunications infrastructure facilities throughout the country," he said.

The new earth satellite station will have the capacity to provide approximately 1,000 telephone circuits to seven destinations in the west and the east of the globe. Towards this end, Sri Lanka has invested about 100 million rupees for this venture, he said.

Father of satellite communications Dr. Arthur C. Clarke, Deputy High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Sri Lanka Ronald Nash, and officials of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications also participated in this ceremony.